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Japan

'Sources': Clinton Canceled Trip Due to Apology

OW0312075895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO — U.S. President Bill Clinton canceled his planned trip to Japan in November partly due to concerns that he would have to repeatedly apologize for the early September rape of a Japanese schoolgirl, allegedly by three U.S. servicemen, government sources said Sunday [3 December].

The White House became apprehensive that Clinton's visit would be dominated by his expressions of contrition about the incident after U.S. intelligence services stationed in Japan sent to Washington a report pointing out that possibility, the sources said.

Clinton was due to visit Japan in mid-November for the Asia-Pacific economic cooperation summit in Osaka as well as bilateral talks with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. But he postponed the trip, citing a budget crisis that partially shut down the government.

The U.S. intelligence services told the government back home that Murayama had no choice but to take a strong stand on the U.S. base issue if a bilateral summit was held in November.

The sources said that according to the report's analysis, repeated expressions of apology by Clinton in Tokyo could raise sour feelings in the United States and ignite arguments for scrapping the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

Japan and the U.S. are still trying to reschedule Clinton's state visit to Japan.

Murayama Cautious About Clinton' Early Visit

OW0412075095 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Dec 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has taken a cautious attitude toward holding Japan-U.S. summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton at an early date. It has been voiced at the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Agency that if President Clinton's early visit to Japan is impossible, Prime Minister Murayama should visit the United States to speed up the announcement of the joint statement on security and reconfirmation of the Japan-U.S. security arrangement. However, in stating disagreement, an official close to the prime minister stated: "Now that we are on the right track in solving the Okinawa base-related issues, there is no urgent need for the prime minister to meet President Clinton." In connection with the joint statement, Prime Minister Murayama is concerned with the fact that while the United States calls strongly for expressly stating the "maintenance of the framework of 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan," the Okinawa side is opposed to this demand. Therefore, there is an indication that Prime Minister Murayama welcomes, on the contrary, a report from the United States on the possible postponement of the Japan-U.S. summit talks till next April.

As for the timing of President Clinton's visit to Japan, the U.S. side has originally sounded out the possibility of his visit in early January next year. However, Japan has indicated difficulty in agreeing to it because of various New Year's events scheduled at the Imperial Court. Moreover, with regard to the idea of inviting President Clinton as an official guest on a working visit so that welcoming events can be simplified, the government has indicated its disapproval, maintaining that "since President Clinton is a head of state, he should be treated as a state guest," (as stated by a top government official).

Meanwhile, officials close to the prime minister have denied the possibility of Prime Minister Murayama's visit to the United States. It seems that they have promptly given up the idea of holding the summit talks next January because they are now looking into the possibility for the prime minister's visit to Asia or Australia in January. At present, while taking into consideration the schedules for the U.S. presidential election and progress of the deliberations of the draft budget bill in Japan as well, the government is engaged in coordination with the U.S. side. However, officials close to the prime minister seem to be relieved because the summit talks have been put off. One of the prime minister's close aides stated: "Now that the announcement of the joint statement has been put off, we can make further study of its details based on the changes in the international situation."

In April, however, all parties will most likely make positive moves to bring their own color into full play while taking into account changes in the political circle following the approval of the FY96 budget bill. In this connection, Prime Minister Murayama is bound to face difficulties in dealing with the joint statement on the security issue.

Staff 'Rather Welcomes' Delay in Clinton's Visit

OW0412074395 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 Dec 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama is cautious about holding Japan-U.S. summit talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton at an early date. Some officials at the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Agency say if Clinton fails to visit Japan at an early date, Murayama should visit the United States in January and announce the joint statement on security issues. They think the significance of the Japan-U.S. security arrangement should be reconfirmed as soon as possible.

However, Murayama's aides are negative about this because "the handling of issues concerning U.S. military bases in Okinawa Prefecture is on the right track, and it is unnecessary to set up the summit talks immediately." Murayama faces a dilemma regarding the wording of the joint statement: While the U.S. side is calling for stipulating "the maintenance of 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan," the Okinawa side is expressing its opposition to including this point. Under these circumstances, it seems Japan rather welcomes arguments by the U.S. side to postpone Clinton's visit until April.

Concerning the schedule of Clinton's trip, the U.S. side initially sounded out its plan to set it up for early January, but the Japanese side rejected it, citing the imperial family's tight schedule during the New Year holidays. The Japanese side also expressed its negative stand on accepting Clinton only as an official guest to simplify welcoming events, saying: "Clinton should be treated as a state guest since he is a chief of state" (a top government official stated).

It seems that Murayama's aides have already given up holding the summit talks in early January, because they have denied the possibility of a Murayama visit to the United States and have sought to set up his visits to Asia and Australia in January. Coordination is now underway to schedule Clinton's visit around April, while considering the schedule of the U.S. presidential election, Diet deliberations on the national budget, and other issues. As a Murayama aide noted, "if the announcement of the joint statement is postponed, Japan will have more time to consider the statement's details and take into consideration changes in the international community." They seem to be relieved by the postponement.

However, Murayama may still face difficulties handling the joint statement, because each political party may intensify moves to promote its own policies to deal with the political situation starting in April, after the passage of the FY96 budget.

Governor Ota Rejects Order To Sign Base Leases

OW0412033295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Dec. 4 KYODO — Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota wrote to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Monday [4 December], saying he is rejecting the premier's order to sign documents needed to force local landowners to renew leases on their land to U.S. military bases, prefectural government officials said.

Ota's action would force Murayama to embark on the next stage in the legal process by signing the documents himself after suing the governor and try to win the case in court.

The case could go to the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court as early as Wednesday, the officials said.

Lawyers for the prefecture are preparing to fight the case using constitutional arguments attacking the special circumstances and alleged injustices that occurred at the time the bases were set up.

Ota has repeatedly said he would not follow the central government's administrative advice or order.

To justify his refusal, he has invoked the Okinawa people's wishes to reduce U.S. bases there following the Sept. 4 rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl for which three U.S. servicemen are on trial.

Murayama has ordered Ota to sign lease contracts covering 35,000 square meters of sites owned by 35 landowners.

DFAA Head Shows 'Concern' Over Ota's Suit

OW0312104495 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 2 Dec 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — During a 1 December news conference, Masuo Morodomi, Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] director general, commented on Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's indication that the latter intends to use the Constitution as part of his argument when he confronts the central government in their expected court battle. Ota has refused to cooperate with the central government in signing documents to force reluctant land owners to renew leases on land being used by U.S. Forces in Okinawa. Morodomi showed his concern over the prefectural government's "determination to fight it out" in court, saying: "We cannot predict the (prefectural government's) moves, but it is desirable that matters proceed in a casual manner."

In response to Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka's remarks about the idea of "taking turns" in connection with the issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' [USMC] live-fire exercises across prefectural highway 104, Morodomi said: "I do not understand what he meant, but I believe he meant to say that live-fire exercises will not be conducted all at once (in one place)." Thus, the DFAA director general indicated his understanding that Nosaka's remarks referred to a plan being considered by the DFAA to disseminate USMC live-fire exercises to a number of Ground Self-Defense Force training grounds.

Defense Agency [DA] Director General Seishiro Eto plans to request appropriations in the next fiscal budget to study the feasibility of relocating the live-fire exercises to five prospective sites. In this regard, Morodomi has shown a positive stance, saying that the work needs to be undertaken as early as before the end of the year for a prompt solution. However, as the person in charge of the matters, he indicated cautiousness, saying: "At the moment, we have started conducting basic studies on nine sites (with firing ranges over five kilometers). I do not know (whether the relocation plans will materialize before the end of the next fiscal year)."

Regarding the relocation of live-fire exercises to mainland sites, the DA is hastily conducting studies to come up with a final decision by the early part of the next fiscal year in consideration of, among other things, the situation over Okinawa's military base issues. However, strong voices have also been raised urging that caution be exercised because of the strong opposition to the relocation plan at prospective sites.

Moreover, while the Okinawa Prefectural Government and various groups are demanding the complete abolishment of live-fire exercises, the DFAA seeks "to reduce the number of exercises as much as possible." However, it is uncertain as to what extent this can be accomplished through dissemination and relocation.

Editorial Views New Post-Cold War Defense Policy

OW0312114395 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Can New Defense Guideline Stand Test of New Era?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cabinet has adopted a new defense program outline, a guideline for the nation's defense in the post-Cold War era. The new outline is the first defense policy revision in 19 years, or since the Liberal Democratic Party administration of Prime Minister Takeo Miki adopted the previous one in 1976.

Six years have passed since the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and the circumstances in East Asia and other parts of the world have changed dramatically. Under such different circumstances, how does Japan, with its great economic might, intend to maintain its security? The new defense plan gives the nation and world an answer to this question. However, the government cannot escape the criticism that it was too slow in revising the defense policy.

The apparent difference between the old and new guidelines is that the center of gravity in the role of the Japan-U.S. security system has shifted from "preventing aggression against Japan" and "Japan-U.S. joint action against aggression" to "maintaining peace and security in areas adjacent to Japan" and "establishing the basis for securing U.S. involvement and deployment of U.S. troops" for that purpose.

Definition of "Defense" Changes

Although the Cold War is over, there are still destabilizing factors near Japan, including the situation on the Korean peninsula, which may affect the nation's security. The new defense policy asserts that U.S. might is needed to maintain stability in the region, and Japan and the United States will jointly support that power.

This assertion is consistent with the contents of the "redefinition" of the bilateral security arrangements that the U.S. Administration of President Bill Clinton has been working on with Japanese officials.

It would be no exaggeration to say that Japan's present defense system is not aimed at preventing aggression by a particular foe, as the Soviet Union was regarded in the past, but it has discovered the significance of its being in helping the United States with its East Asia strategy.

Concerning the "redefinition" of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements in the post-Cold War era, we proposed that Japan should review the security system from the viewpoint of actively easing tensions in East Asia. If the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] are incorporated into the bilateral security system and "redefined" by the Japanese and U.S. Governments, the ramifications are obvious.

Certainly, the new defense outline follows the concept of "fundamental defense strength" indicated in the previous guideline. This concept involves "maintaining in peacetime, the minimum necessary defense strength" under the Constitution. The new guideline is also accompanied with the revised annexed table on a specific scale of defense forces.

In the attached table, the quota of Ground Self-Defense Force troops is reduced and the numbers of antisubmarine patrol planes and fighter-interceptor squadrons are also reduced. Considering changes in the military situation and the government's tight budget, the cutbacks are a matter of course. Although the reduction is not enough, it must lead to a curtailment in defense spending.

If we regard the new defense policy only from a budgetary viewpoint, we will lose the larger picture of the nation's security. Closer military cooperation between Japan and the United States in dealing with regional conflicts would cause discord with the Constitution, which bans exercising the right to collective self-defense. This is the essential problem with the new outline.

In the spring of 1994, the U.S. Government asked Japan for a SDF dispatch in the event of an emergency in connection with the suspected development by the DPRK of nuclear weapons. The Defense Agency declined the request, citing the constitutional ban on collective self-defense. However, the Liberal Democratic Party and the New Frontier Party have begun to openly state that the right to exercise collective self-defense should be approved.

Government Should Maintain Strict Interpretation Regarding Right to Collective Self-Defense

That is exactly why Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama should have clearly indicated in the new defense guideline, not in the chief cabinet secretary's statement, that his administration intends to adhere to strict interpretation of the Constitution regarding the right to collective self-defense. At a time when the government is faced with issues related to collective self-defense, such as the Japan-U.S. acquisition and cross servicing agreement, what was needed was a clear expression of political will.

Can we ensure national security by merely inserting policy guidelines dealing only with military power in a document that forms the basis for our defense in the same manner as in the Cold War period? The answer is no.

Japan's stricter observation of its three nonnuclear principles and arms embargo policy and its resolve to contribute to the prevention of conflict and to confidence-building would thwart destabilization in this region in the post-Cold War structure. Such a concept should have been the essence of the post-Cold War defense guideline.

From that standpoint, the government should have worked out the new guideline under the Diet's initiative, and taking public opinions into account. Certainly, the nation's security policy in a new era deserves that much effort. In this sense, the new defense outline, drawn up under the initiative of bureaucrats, symbolizes the politicians' negligence.

The situation in Asia will greatly change from now on. Also, the U.S. military presence in this region will not last forever. In this transition period, it is unlikely that the new defense guideline will continue to be effective for many years.

Keeping this in mind, the government should begin work to envision the desired situation in the region and draw up the larger picture of the nation's security policy.

U.S. Lawyer: Politics Detracting From Main Issue

OW0412120195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1018 GMT 04 Dec 95

[By William May]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Dec. 4 Kyodo — A U.S. lawyer in Japan to observe the trial of three U.S. servicemen for the rape an Okinawa schoolgirl lamented Monday [4 December] that politics is detracting from the main issue of the trial.

Eric Ross, an Atlanta-based attorney for the families of the defendants, complimented the Japanese defense counsel for doing "an excellent job" and adding that the judges had a chance to see the defendants as "human beings" during Monday's hearing at the Naha District Court.

"What was presented today was another side of the situation, the side that most people had not seen."

"You saw the characters of each individual presented by their character witnesses so people will know now that they are not stark raving animals as they have been described by certain individuals. They are actually human beings," said Ross.

U.S. Navy seaman Marcus Gill, and U.S. Marine privates Rodrico Harp and Kendrick Ledet, are standing trial for the Sept. 4 rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl in Okinawa.

The incident unleashed a storm of protests calling for the reduction or the removal of the U.S. military presence in Okinawa and the revision of the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

"The political undertones and all the other subtitles [as received] (surrounding the trial) have taken away from the main issue — a very tragic incident happened to a very young girl," said Ross, adding later, "we have four families here that are suffering real bad."

Ross described the families of the defendants as understanding the anguish of the victim and her family, saying they have heartfelt sympathy since "they are mothers too."

At Monday's hearing, Denitrease Harp, wife of defendant Harp, apologized to the victim and her parents and described her husband as a gentle man with a love for children.

Ross also rejected the suggestion that race was an issue in the trial and expressed confidence in judges hearing the testimony.

"I don't think that race has played any part in this (trial). I only saw three U.S. servicemen being charged with a very serious crime. It is just unfortunate that they are black African Americans," said Ross.

He noted that although some groups in Okinawa are demanding the strictest possible sentence, life in prison, for the defendants, "The judges, in their wisdom, will reach a fair and impartial decision based on the evidence presented."

Asked about the strategy of the defense team, Ross explained that "Once you actually reach the trial stage (in Japan), you're really more looking at a process of mitigating the damage and also mitigating the amount of a sentence an accused may receive."

He said that defense lawyers in Japan "have their hands tied" since they are not allowed to meet with the suspects of crimes until an indictment has been received.

Ross explained that 99.5 percent of the suspects in criminal investigations confess and this results in a "99.8 percent rate of conviction."

Ross refused to speculate on the severity of a possible sentence against the defendants, but suggested that a sentence should rehabilitate a person "in a structured environment" and with a "support structure."

"However, Okinawa is a million miles away from where these young men would have a support system," he said.

At the first hearing on Nov. 7, Gill pleaded guilty to charges of abduction and rape, while Ledet and Harp said they conspired with Gill but denied raping the girl.

Prosecutors Seek 13-Year Term for U.S. Marine

OW0412055695 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Dec. 4 KYODO — Prosecutors sought a 13-year prison term Monday [4 December] for a U.S. serviceman who is on trial for murdering a female Japanese acquaintance in May in Japan's southwesternmost prefecture of Okinawa.

Marine 1st Class Joshua Hill, 20, of the U.S. Marine Corps' Camp Foster in Okinawa, allegedly hit Kanako Kinjo repeatedly in the face May 10 with a hammer.

Kinjo, a 24-year-old company employee, died in the attack, which was carried out in front of an apartment building in Ginowan.

Prosecutors told the court that because of the cruel nature of the crime, a lack of clarity over Hill's motive and an apparent lack of contrition, he should receive the 13-year term.

Roundtable Discusses Japan-U.S.-Korea Relations

OW0212114195 Tokyo GAIKO FORUM in Japanese Nov 95 Issue pp 22-33

[Roundtable discussion attended by Hajime Izumi, professor of Shizuoka Prefectural University; Toshimitsu Shigemura, editorial writer of MAINICHI SHIMBUN; and Kenzo Oshima, councillor at the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau; moderated by an unidentified GAIKO FORUM editor held on 22 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Relationship at Appropriate Distance**

[GAIKO FORUM] This year, Japan and the ROK entered the 30th year of normalized relationship. The ROK's economy is growing fast. The projects that can be carried out by Japan and the ROK in cooperation are also growing. Meanwhile, the tough reality is that Korea remains split into South and North even though the Cold War has ended, and the idea of assuring Korea's security by including the United States and China in a new system is being probed. Today I would like you to discuss international cooperation over issues concerning the Korean peninsula, with an emphasis on the Japan-ROK cooperation.

[Oshima] Over the past 30 years since relations between the two countries were normalized, officials of both Japan and the ROK have made great efforts. Most people acknowledge that we have come a long way from the difficult situation in the early days. Of course, no doubt, there are still many tricky issues left. However, it is not right to talk only about negative issues. Indeed, we need to appropriately evaluate the positive results achieved. Besides, public opinion is in the process of changing. I think we can expect maturity to arrive here.

Hereafter, in Japan-ROK relations, it is necessary to learn the lessons of history, to head in a future-oriented direction, and to manage [preceding word in English] relations with each other in an orderly manner. North and South Korean relations are particularly touchy. It is most important that Japan and the ROK cooperate positively in order to defend the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Insomuch as the ROK has attained an advanced economic status and power, it may also be the time to begin thinking earnestly about Japan and the ROK cooperating in such areas as official development assistance (ODA).

The two nations should not be concerned with bilateral issues only; they should start thinking concretely about cooperating with each other on providing technology to developing countries or with regard to various regional or global issues. The two countries now have the common ground to tackle these issues actively. I think the two countries need to change their orientation in that way.

[GAIKO FORUM] Both Mr. Shigimura and Mr. Izumi have had a very tough time for the past 30 years because their areas of specialty were the Korean peninsula, right? (laughter)

[Shigemura] There has been a heaven-and-earth change since the 1970's and 1980's. At the root of it is the fact that the ROK has become a better-off country. It has become wealthy, and has confidence in itself. That is the biggest change.

Besides, now there are many Japanese going to the ROK on visits. Consequently, the Japanese are getting to meet Koreans personally and are making friends with them. The atmosphere now is such that the Japanese public realize that they do not have to believe what is reported by news media — even though I feel like I am spitting in my own face by saying this. (laughter) The biggest point is the fact that the people of both countries have come to see each other as they really are.

[GAIKO FORUM] I am not talking only about the past 30 years, but Mr. Shigemura, wern't you the first correspondent to Korea who was fluent in the Korean language?

[Shigemura] No, I was the second person. The first was Mr. Keitaro Koisumi of ASAHI SHIMBUN.

[GAIKO FORUM] That explains why there was such a big gap in what was reported in the ROK and Japan.

[Shigemura] Yes, but, really, if there had not been the Kim Tae-chung incident, the Japan-ROK relationship would have been different. The Kim Tae-chung incident was a major cause for the long-time strained relations between Japan and the ROK. If I borrow stories from newspaper reporters, for some time or rather for about 10 years from the time of that incident, reports filed from Korea were never given significant space in newspapers unless they contained words "Kim Tae-chung." (laughter)

Those were the days when reports filed from Korea, however minor in content, got carried in newspapers conspicuously if they had a reference to the three characters of his name "Kim Tae-chung." This state of affairs meant that as far as reporters were concerned, their work was easy. They wrote only reports that contained Kim's name and forgot about culture, the latest fashion, and the economy of the ROK. Consequently, for Japanese readers, the ROK seemed to be a country that had no one but Kim Tae-chung. That state of affairs continued for a long time. (laughter)

[GAIKO FORUM] There were days in Japan when even academics were viewed with suspicion if their studies concerned the ROK.

[Izumi] However, about 10 years have passed since those days. I think there has been considerable change starting around two decades after the normalization of Japan-ROK relations.

[GAIKO FORUM] What would you say about the ROK?

[Izumi] Well, for instance, I would say Korean scholars are still rather mindful of how other people view them.

Over the past 30 years, as Mr. Oshima said earlier, there has been a negative and a positive side. However, I think both Japan and the ROK — having had to live with these two sides — have learned to become tenacious as well. There have been both favorable and unfavorable conditions. People were sometimes friendly and sometimes confrontational. However, in general, there have been considerable changes in both Japan and the ROK. They have become strong enough to endure these two sides of the conditions.

I think all this probably indicates maturity. For instance, some people believe the current situation, in which the two countries are close geographically but distant in a mutual-relations sense, is not desirable. They say the countries should be close geographically and in a relations sense as well. On the other hand, there are people who believe the state where the two are close geographically but distant in a relations sense is good enough. I think the ground has been laid for changing the relationship to one that is close geographically while relations are kept at an appropriate distance, which I think is the most desirable condition.

[Oshima] The Peace and Friendship Exchange Plan marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II starts operating this year. As part of the plan, a Japan-ROK study project will start up to deal with areas of Japan and the ROK. The project is aimed at conducting joint studies on such areas as politics, the economy, culture, society, and ideology. This project comes at the right time, and I have high expectations for it.

Question on the Process Used To Decide the Rice Aid Issue

[GAIKO FORUM] We can cite the recent case of disaster relief to North Korea (the DPRK) as a specific example of several nations cooperating over matters concerning the Korean peninsula.

[Oshima] The Japanese Government has provided via a UN organization $500,000 in funds to help North Koreans hurt by floods in July and August.

We should note some unusual revelations made by North Korea regarding the disasters. For instance, although North Korea had obstinately insisted on self-reliance for food supplies, it chose to seek international assistance. Pursuant to its request, the United Nations sent a survey mission to inspect the disaster areas. It is so unusual that North Korea would allow an inspection of its inland disaster areas.

In its report the survey team subsequently recommended about $15 million in aid.

Regarding the scale of these disasters, DPRK authorities supposedly asserted that the damage was estimated at $15 billion and affected 5 million people. They also insisted the nation's rice supply was short by some 3 million tons. However, the UN survey team could only verify that about 100,000 households, or about 500,000 people, were victims of the disaster, and its recommendation was based on that survey result.

Japan has no diplomatic relations with the DPRK. However, the Japanese Government decided on the aid amount by applying its own disaster assessment criteria — from a humanitarian viewpoint and in recognition of the fact that the DPRK did suffer from rather serious disasters.

In a separate decision in June, the government decided to provide 300,000 tons in rice aid to North Korea. North Korea will pay for half of it on a deferred basis, and receive the other half gratis.

Most of that amount has already been shipped. This amount was decided on before the request for disaster relief came. At that time, North Korea had made a similar assertion that it faced a rather serious food shortage. From a humanitarian viewpoint, the Japanese Government decided to provide rice from surplus inventories it happened to have carried over from shipments of urgent rice imports made earlier in the year. The floods struck North Korea right after Japan shipped the rice to it. Thus, this first rice aid should have proved very valuable to the DPRK. However, according to a news report, a key North Korean official declared Japan's rice aid was an expression of apology to North Korea. This report raised questions as to what Japan was doing and caused some quarrels. However, the ruling political parties stepped in and looked into this report, which was rather regrettable to Japan. Consequently, the misunderstandings it had caused were cleared up, and the situation was put back on track. This resulted in talk about Japan providing additional rice aid to North Korea, and the two countries are supposed to hold working-level talks on this soon.

[Shigemura] I think Japan should think like Kenji Miyazawa [poet-writer; 1896-1933] as far as this issue is concerned. He said, "Don't let the rains win; don't let the winds daunt the people." Japan's basic stand on diplomacy with Asia should be that of going anywhere — north or south — where people need help. Aid itself is a good thing.

[Shigemura continues] However, I shake my head in wonder at the diplomatic process followed to reach a final decision on rice aid.

Two-headed diplomacy that enables politicians to intervene and push their will on the government is most undesirable. If the pushing were by a foreign minister in the position of a politician, it should not be a problem. However, if a politician who has nothing to do with diplomacy and carries no diplomatic responsibilities barges in and says, "I am the channel to North Korea," such an action can mislead the country as far as strategy and consistency of diplomacy goes.

If that kind of thing happens again in future talks on diplomatic normalization, we will be in major trouble. That is my feeling. Of course, Japan is not the only party to this problem. North Korea and the ROK are just as much a party to it as we. Politicians have the bad habit of wanting to involve themselves in the process of diplomatic talks.

[Oshima] Yet, given the present situation in which Japan has no diplomatic relations with North Korea, I must say that, as a practical matter, the use of an informal channel [peceding two words in English] like one connected via political parties would sometimes be unavoidable. However, the other party being the kind of country it is, we need to be careful. I agree with you in that regard. I must say it is important that the government takes firm hold of the negotiations.

[Shigemura] What the Japanese Government needs to note is the fact that North Korea has difficulty understanding Japan's politicial system and policymaking process. North Korea appears to think that in Japan's system of making policy or decisions, big wigs or politicians make the decisions and all others simply follow them. However, in Japan policy matters work up from the bottom and are decided finally by cabinet ministers. That is how the system works, and thus big wigs' intervention in the process will only aggravate the misunderstandings North Korea already has about Japan.

[Oshima] While the normalization talks are in progress, Japan must stick to the rule of using normal diplomatic negotiating channels only. Otherwise, Japan could be harried and shaken up by North Korea. The talks could be distorted, and Japan's national interests could be hurt in the talks.

Disaster Has Serious Impact on North Korea

[Izumi] Mr. Oshima noted that North Korea made an unusual revelation this time. The fact that it acted in such an unusual way indicates how serious its situation is. It did not openly say it cannot recover from the disasters by itself, but the fact that it immediately sought assistance shows that it is clearly aware of the limitations to what it can do alone.

I too think we need to help the DPRK somehow recover from the disasters, if only a little. However, there is a problem with this.

North Korea needs to open up more to other countries when it seeks assistance from them. For instance, it must accept foreign countries' television reporting teams. However many reports the United Nations may produce, its reports simply cannot present very realistic pictures. A photo or a 10-minute videotape can make a considerable difference. As long as they keep doing things as they are now, there are limitations to what they can do to form the groundwork for receiving international assistance.

Another point to note is that the ROK for its part did not make any unusual response. It is wavering, as it does all the time. It spoke about providing $2 million and then withdrew its offer. Eventually, it will come up with at least $2-3 million, but it will not move now. If the ROK really thought it necessary to prop up North Korea now, it would move very fast. After all, unless the ROK is willing to take the initiative, an international corsortium for assistance means almost nothing.

When these two points are considered, we realize that it will be very hard to materialize relief for North Korea's disasters. I doubt if the $15 million, the amount initially suggested for disaster relief, can be raised, while even it falls far short of what the country needs. While nothing is happening except ideas, winter is coming to North Korea. When it arrives, conditions there will only worsen. The disaster victims have no houses to live in, not enough food to eat, and no ways to keep themselves warm. The situation is more urgent than people tend to think. If we want to help them, we must do it now.

Despite all this, if we look back on what we have done so far, or at how international assistance programs have been formed in the past month, we find things are going slow. Winter is one or two months away. Even if the assistance program gets on the right track now, it could still be too late to be effective. The stories on the flood disaster really came out of nowhere, but I am strongly concerned that this matter could develop into a very major issue.

[Oshima] We can cite the lack of diplomatic relations as one reason for the delay in international assistance. In addition, we should cite problems with North Korea's political system and international mistrust of North Korea — these things count even if we are talking about humanitarian aid. In other words, there are feelings that North Korea should first correct some of its basic distorted policies. For instance, it assigns so much of its domestic resources to military purposes, leaving so little for private citizens. The country's isolation does not help in a situation like this either. These things should be told to North Korea, but it is difficult to get the message to them.

[Shigemura] It boils down to two points. First, North Korea needs to see that international trust in it is low. Take the rice aid issue, for instance. Even though Japan has sent rice shipments, there have been no reports on "where they have been sent and how they have been used." Unless the DPRK can learn to produce appropriate reports, there is no way for it to receive further overseas aid.

The other point concerns how much of an impact these floods have had on North Korea's Kim Chong-il system. In other words, are they are of such a magnitude as to threaten the Kim Chong-il system. In fact, from spring to summer this year, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency wrote reports to the State Department, warning: "North Korea could collapse within the next five years. It would be desirable to formulate policies that take such a possibility into account." Before that, Russia's KGB made a prediction that: "Regardless of whether North Korea opens itself up or not, it will collapse within the next five to seven years." The ROK's response to these two reports was that, "No, that will not happen so soon." Yet now the ROK has started thinking that North Korea could be in danger, impacted by the recent floods. The ROK has thus decided it should initially provide $2 million.

Once again, all the issues boil down to these two points.

Away From China, USSR, Toward a Japan-U.S. Economic Bloc

[Izumi] Just about a year has passed since the Kim Chong-il system started, and I think the system is relatively stable now. The question is whether the system can be sustained. Given the country's economic condition, the flood disasters must have come as a serious problem to it in the short term.

Aside from the question of how reliable the U.S. and Russian estimates of five to seven year may be, there is a question of how much the DPRK can do to restructure its economy in the medium to long run. North Korea has the task of improving living standards. It calls this "elevating the people's life," and this is a supreme goal of the platform for the Workers Party of Korea. The DPRK has made efforts to achieve this since the 1960's, but there has been no improvement in people's lives. Mr. Kim Chong-il is supposed to be strongly aware of this need. I believe this problem of improving living standards is a pressing matter that will have an impact on medium- and long-term political stability. Yet, we cannot see how the DPRK wants to achieve this.

I have tried to give a flexible evaluation of the economic policies of post-Kim Il-song North Korea, but all that I can see is that the country's major emphasis is on efforts to recover its economy through its own efforts [jiriki kosei]. There has been no change in policy in this respect since the days of Kim Il-song. What we can say clearly is that as long as North Korea insists on this self-reliance, we can never tell when it can restructure its economy.

As long as North Korea wants to maintain self-reliance as its golden rule, however much efforts it makes to open itself up to the world, its efforts will not prove so effective, because the international community's strong mistrust in North Korea will remain. I think Mr. Kim Chong-il needs to use clearer expressions to say that his country needs outside assistance.

[Shigemura] However, that is Japan's view. If we think of this from North Korea's viewpoint, we will come to ask if North Korea was a winner or loser in the Cold War. The answer is that North Korea is the only socialist country that has survived after the Cold War collapsed. As such, viewed from the North Korean standpoint, it is a winner. We must take this into account.

There is then the question of why it has survived. The Soviet Union collapsed only because it was too aggressive with its reform policies, and East Germany collapsed because it let in the West's information too easily. If one thinks about it from this perspective, one can visualize what the North Koreans are thinking and how long North Korea's stability will last.

To the ROK, the prospect of reunifying with the North as a result of the latter's collapse is like a bad dream. The ROK does not want it to happen, at least not for a while. Simply put, the ROK does want this to happen for the next 10 years. The ROK would choose to prop up North Korea if it comes close to collapsing — at least for the next 10 years. Providing assistance will eliminate one of the causes that could cause North Korea to collapse or lose its stability.

[Oshima] I agree with the view of you two gentlemen that the most urgent task now is resolving the issue of how to stop the country's economy, particularly the food shortage problem, from growing worse. Insomuch as it will be in Japan's basic interest to defend peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula, Japan should provide cooperation and assistance within the scope of this purpose. Such exceptional measures as providing North Korea with flood disaster relief or humanitarian rice aid, and providing assistance to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) to help resolve the suspected nuclear issue — which we will discuss further later on — doubtless belong within the scope of this purpose. However, we cannot and must not be dragged into providing regular economic assistance as long as diplomatic relations are not normalized.

[Shigemura] In essence, North Korea has been an aid-dependent economy, living on aid from China and the Soviet Union. It has also used the basic ideology called chuche sasang [self-reliance] to support the economy. However, one of the two elements propping up its economy is no longer functioning, and North Korea is now trying desperately to replace its aid donors with new ones.

Simply put, North Korea now says it wants to "join the economic bloc of the United States and Japan," but it cannot say so openly. It wants to do so by getting in little by little as chances come along. Its negotiations with KEDO and its request for flood relief all represent these efforts. These actions were indeed efforts to make the change in aid providers a fait accompli. In fact, I think the moment an agreement was reached with KEDO, North Korea came under the economic umbrella of the United States and Japan.

U.S.-DPRK Accord Reached with "Mistrust" Intact

[Izumi] If North Korea collapses despite all the efforts to prevent it, then we cannot help it. If we want to be an idle onlooker or do something that prompts a collapse, and consequently there is a collapse, it would be the worst of all possible scenarios.

We can agree with Mr. Oshima's view that support alone is not enough. If North Korea wants to join the international community, that is something the community wants too. If that happens, then the international community will say, "The conditions for you to join us is that you abide by international rules." That condition is the international community must present. If the presentation of such a condition itself contributes to a weakening in North Korea's system, there will be nothing we can do about it.

[Oshima] From that perspective, KEDO can be said to be a product of very difficult endeavors. It was produced for the very specific purpose of clearing up suspicion about North Korea's nuclear arms and containing its nuclear arms development programs in the future. If people want to criticize the U.S.-DPRK agreement or the KEDO agreement, they can do so. However, the question then arises of what the alternatives [preceding word in English] are, if these agreements are not good. What we are trying to do is not to drive North Korea into isolation, but to draw it out and help it make a soft landing in joining the international community. These agreements are practical give-and-take frameworks for doing this. That is how I see them.

Because they involve issues so close to Japan's security, they are matters of great urgency and grave concern. Of course, they are of even more concern to the ROK, and are serious matters to the United States, who has troops stationed in the ROK. If things go awry, the United States might be dragged into another war. Meanwhile, North Korea would interpret the agreements as something on which the life or death of its own system depends. In other words, the DPRK is serious as well. In negotiating the U.S.-DPRK agreement, both parties desperately sought common points and somehow came up with a framework agreement. The United States even had to draw up a road map [preceding two words in English] visualizing "what it would do if the other did this or that." After all the struggles and efforts, things are finally starting to move. The integral part of the accord is KEDO. The organization was inaugurated in February, and held its first general session in August. It is now set to start. It is getting ready to do a preliminary survey on the sites for lightwater reactor construction, and will soon start holding talks on specifics in the supply of the light-water reactors.

Still, the framework of the U.S.-DPRK agreement essentially stands on a "system of mistrust [fushin no taikei]" and is thus fragile. It can crumble very fast unless both parties — Japan, the United States, and the ROK on one side and North Korea on the other — do their part in implementing it. As long as there is no other realistic way to avoid the crisis, all parties should make maximum effort to abide by it. The final outcome is important, but the process of getting there is equally important.

[Izumi] You have just used a very appropriate expression to describe it. You said this was "a system of mistrust." The substance of the agreement is actually based on mistrust. The agreement is fragile, and it is not certain if it will go smoothly. Given such conditions, what we must do is to go cautiously and try to achieve a good result in the end. In carrying out the agreement, we all need to realize that we need a degree of willingness to accommodate and compromise when there are troubles and confusion. Unless we have that attitude, this agreement will never run smoothly. We need to be prepared to be optimistic sometimes and pessimistic other times. We can accept these troubles and confusion as natural if we can admit that this thing started on a "system of mistrust."

How Would North Korea Explain the ROK's Assistance?

[Shigemura] I have a different view. I think KEDO is after all a success, but it is a product of complete diplomatic failure on the part of the United States. The United States let North Korea into the U.S. economic bloc, apparently having lost in the diplomatic bargaining. That is how KEDO was born. Now, the matter has progressed to such extent that North Korea can no longer envision its economy without thinking about the KEDO framework. For instance, KEDO promised to provide 500,000 tons of fuel oil to North Korea every year. This is half of what North Korea uses each year. This means North Korea gets half of its oil demand completely free. That naturally means the organization has come to be very important to North Korea. In that regard, this is an organization which suits North Korea very well.

Another point: The process of negotiations has provided Japan, the United States, and the ROK with a system for discussing and readjusting their views to keep their steps in order in so many respects. When seen from this perspective, it has served a very good purpose. (laughter) As far as the U.S.-DPRK talks are concerned, I must say the United States was the complete loser.

There is another lesson learned from the U.S.-DPRK talks. What North Korea demanded most in negotiations with the United States was the United States' "promise not to destroy North Korea" and "to respect North Korea's socialism." In other words, North Korea's biggest fear was that Japan, the United States, and the ROK would try to destroy it as they did East Europe [sentence as published].

What this tells us is that what North Korea wants most is the promise not to destroy them. North Korea cares less about other things, so long as we can promise not to destroy it. In other words, the assertion about the need to take care not to isolate North Korea or to have it participate more in the international community may be a valid argument for us, but not for North Korea. North Korea knows that if it takes in the policy of opening up and joining the international community, there is the danger of its disintegration. Therefore, a good way to assure them of their security is to continue promising "other countries will never destroy North Korea," while leaving it in a degree of isolation.

We have talked about helping it make a soft landing and stabilize. Actually, what we need most is to say "we will never destroy you; we will respect your independence and socialism," rather than send money or commodities. [laughter]

[GAIKO FORUM] Mr. Shigemura referred to the economic umbrella of Japan and the United States. Do you think there will be a substantial change in the DPRK's economy as a result of moving away from the Sino-Russian umbrella to that of Japan and the United States?

[Shigemura] I am sure there will be. They hope, by leaving China and the Soviet Union [as published], their country will develop into an economy that is of a higher level in terms of the technology level and the abundance of commodities. However, the most difficult problem is that North Korea cannot realize it has to come under "the economic umbrella of the ROK" in order to get under the "economic umbrella of Japan and the United States." Without ROK understanding or cooperation, there is no way for North Korea to come completely under the "Japan economic umbrella." North Korea still thinks it can avoid doing this, and it will remain a contentious point hereafter.

[Izumi] I agree that ROK involvment will be a very sticky point for North Korea.

As long as foreign assistance is solicited from the United States or Japan, North Korea can find some kind of justification. However, it will have a hard time explaining things if that assistance has to come from the ROK.

The country is supposed to be reconstructing its economy through self-reliance [jiriki kosei]. Can it say it will do it with self-reliance with the help of the ROK? If North Korea can come up an argument that can convince people that assistance from the ROK has nothing to do with self-reliance, then, of course, that will be a different matter. (laughter)

China in Self-Contradiction

[Oshima] Recently, the U.S. Congress, in resolutions and bills, has issued messages warning that "if North Korea does not get more serious in the South-North talks, the United States should not cooperate in KEDO." North Korea needs to grasp the meaning of these messages.

The United States has accepted the big burden of supplying fuel oil to North Korea. If the United States changes its mind, the minimum trust that is supporting the framework will crumble. If that happens, the whole framework could collapse. In the United States, the Republican Party won control of congress in the off-year election, and I understand some of the Republicans tend to be critical of the U.S.-DPRK agreement. Besides, there is the government financial problem. Things are tough. The United States had a great deal of difficulty giving birth to that "child" [U.S.-DPRK agreement]. We hope that the country will stick it out. We must together raise this child. The difficult part of the job is only now beginning.

[Shigemura] But the United States has no interest in doing that at all. The opinions of the public and congress are not so favorable toward North Korea, notably from experiences in the Korean Conflict.

Now, when the world has progressed into the post-Cold era or the post-post Cold War era, what is being proven in the Korean peninsula is that neither Russia nor the United States is interested in North Korea. I mentioned the "economic umbrella of Japan and the United States," but actually, North Korea would be entering the umbrella of Japan and the ROK.

North Korea has a beautiful illusion, thinking or trying to think the United States is interested in them. But actually, the countries which are involved in issues of the Korean peninsula, particularly North Korea, are only three — Japan, the ROK, and China.

[GAIKO FORUM] China appears to have dropped out of sight.

[Shigemura] No, I do not think so. As far as we see, China has many information sources in North Korea. From the early stage of nuclear talks, China has continued to say "North Korea is not capable of developing nuclear arms," and China is convinced of this.

Hence, basically there is no reason for China to be concerned. But since dropping out of the scene completely would result in stalling of the U.S.-DPRK talks, it has kept on urging "the talks to be continued." That is all there is to it. (laughter) The country is not interested in getting involved in negotiations for KEDO or nuclear issues. The only reason it remains a party to the talks is because the country has always historically had influence on the Korean peninsula, and it wants to continue to have it in the future.

[Izumi] China's position has come very cold. China is now in a self-contradiction. I think it is because that country is apparently taking the position of "opposing the reunification of Korea." While the only realistic scenario that can happen in Korea's reunification is for North Korea to be integrated into the ROK, China thinks that would not be beneficial to China. Then, given such a condition, one would think China would try to prop up North Korea. But China's eagerness to do so is growing weaker and weaker.

[Shigemura] Right now, China is in no position to prop up North Korea. The country has its hands full.

[Izumi] In other words, the countries interested are not really Japan, the ROK, and China, but the two of Japan and the ROK. Certainly, at the present moment, the concern in general is thinning.

Will Japan Supply Fuel Oil "When Requested"?

[Oshima] I think your assessment on China's influence is appropriate, but I think you have gone too far when you said the United States is not interested either. We cannot deny the United States is feeling "the issues at the final stages [giri giri no tokoro no mondai] should be handled by Japan and the ROK." The United States, out of that feeling, would want Japan and the ROK to do as much as possible in sharing burdens while that country does what it can for its part. But, beyond that, the United States now has 37,000 troops stationed in the ROK, and the Korean peninsula issues can have implications [preceding word in English] on the U.S. troops in Japan. In other words, the U.S. participation in Korean peninsula issues is proof of its so-called commitment to Asia. The United States is only naturally expected to make commitments in political and financial areas, and I think the U.S. Government is making tremendous efforts towards it. The United States will come to lose the trust of Asian countries should it choose to fail in risky places.

[Shigemura] But I feel the United States thinks it is doing enough by stationing its troops in Korea, and as for burdens beyond that, the country appears to be saying, "Asian matters should be taken care of by Asians."

[Izumi] If eventually things turn out as Mr. Oshima said, then our trust in the United States will fall.

I think it very likely that eventually Japan will come to take over a greater portion of the burdens. Given such a condition, I think Japan should take over the burden of supplying fuel oil [to North Korea] from the United States now.

Sooner or later the United States will raise an argument on why it should be the supplier of oil, and that argument will come to raise Japan's mistrust in the United States. Despite all that, in the end, however, it will turn out that the United States does not want to continue supplying it, and wants Japan and the ROK to take it over. But since the ROK will not agree, Japan will take charge, which means Japan will end up the loser in the deal. This process will only aggravate Japan's mistrust in the United States. All this is likely to happen eventually.

[Izumi continues] I do not think it is desirable to let such a thing happen. I think what is desirable is for Japan it to propose "we will take over fuel oil supply." Speaking in terms of money, the burden will come to $50 to $60 million, and that is not so great. If Japan can accept it as a cost of security, the amount can never be called a heavy burden. Besides, Japan has considerable extra capacity to supply "high-sulphur C fuel oil" which is similar in quality to the "bunker C fuel oil" being supplied to North Korea by the United States. This means Japan can supply this fuel oil in kind. From that perspective as well, I think it appropriate for Japan to actively volunteer to take over the burden of supplying it.

[Shigemura] I am thoroughly opposed to that idea. The parties tied directly to the Korean issues are South and North Korea. It is too presumptuous for Japan to do something like that without getting them involved. That is bound to boomerang later on. For instance, if Japan offers to "provide $1.5 million" without being asked, the ROK later is bound to criticize Japan as being engaged in an act of economic invasion or ignoring the ROK in her diplomatic policy on North Korea. In dealing with South and North Korea over the Korean peninsula issues, Japan should never come forward volunteering or pushing something on them. Japan should act only when asked.

[Izumi] Does that mean the fuel oil supply should be taken over by the ROK too?

[Shigemura] Yes, but Japan should assume the position of saying that it will not hesitate to provide help if requested.

[Izumi] I agree to that as a matter of principle, but I also think that is an unrealistic scenario.

[GAIKO FORUM] Is that because of the ROK?

[Izumi] We know $50 million in fuel oil is not an amount which the ROK cannot afford to pay. But the ROK does not want to use that money. Besides, they are people who simply hate to ask for help. (laughter)

[Shigemura] I do not agree. This is a simple matter. For instance, suppose I was thinking: "I do not have any money today; maybe Mr. Izumi could pay for me." While so thinking, I was not saying it to anyone yet. Just then, Mr. Izumi happens to come by, and tells me: "I happen to have some money today; let us go have lunch together." Of course, I would think "Wow, things are going nicely," but I would not be so thankful about the help. Only when a man has no choice but to say "Sorry, but I have no money today. Can you buy?" Only then he can be grateful. (laughter) In Korean issues, we must not do anything that we would not be thanked for. (laughter) They would call our unsolicited offer a revelation of imperialistic thinking.

[Izumi] But I think we should do this thing even if we are not thanked for it. (laughter) I say that is the cost we pay for our security. To begin with, I think it wrong to formulate policies on the expectation of getting "thanked" or on the premise of being asked by the people of the Korean peninsula. These things can never happen actually. If we act assuming something which will never happen anyway, that will be tantamount to having no measures and doing nothing at all.

The United States Should Have Leadership Over KEDO

[Oshima] Of course, the primary players in KEDO are Japan, the United States, and the ROK, but there are many other nations participating, though their monetary contributions would be very small when compared with burdens to be eventually carried by Japan, the United States, and the ROK. Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and some countries in Europe are among them. In that context, it is international. It is literally an international organization and represents an international cooperative relationship.

It is regrettable that interest shown in it by other countries is small when compared with that of Japan, the United States, and the ROK, but that is the given fact. Japan is cooperating with European countries in international actions to deal with Chernobyl nuclear power station disasters. I wish Europe could pay more attention and provide assistance to KEDO programs as well. The issues that involve security and nonnuclear proliferation should be dealt with globally, and KEDO issues are developing into such issues. Japan, the United States, and the ROK are making great diplomatic efforts to bring the KEDO project into shape.

[Shigemura] The United States has two commitments [preceding word in English] to Asia — one on the Korean peninsula and one on Asia in general. The reason we say KEDO is important is because this will be a prototype of a international cooperation forum that can be used when the reunification of the Korean peninsula eventually comes. I think the expansion which KEDO will undergo and the effect it will come to have will be tremendous. From that perspective, we can say that the more leadership the United States holds over KEDO, the better, because Japan's burdens in the future will be that much smaller. (laughter)

It is also desirable for the United States to normalize relations with North Korea before Japan does, and for many U.S. companies to get into that country before the Japanese companies do. That will reduce burdens for Japan. As long as North Korea holds its beautiful illusion about the United States, U.S.-DPRK relations will keep on making progress. Japan should make the most of the situation. Japan can follow in the wake, way back and slowly. If Japan does not act in this way, Japan itself will end up having to do everything.

[Oshima] To get back to the first question, we must note there is now a continuous flow of issues that needs to be advanced with the cooperation of the ROK. I think Japan now understands the importance of cooperating with the ROK and the need to uphold an independent position for Japan while maintaining communications with the ROK. I feel this understanding is growing not only in Japan, but also in our friend, the ROK. Japan now wants to do things while keeping that country well informed. I think that is being done because all the people now realize the importance of giving consideration to the South-North Korea relationship. I think this is a good practice of international cooperation to deal with the Korean peninsula issues. I think this can be turned into a good lesson as well.

[GAIKO FORUM] Thank you so much.

Tokyo, Moscow Agree on 100,000-Ton Fish Quotas

OW0112053495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO — Japan and Russia have agreed in principle to set their fishing quotas in each other's 200-mile zone for next year at 100,000 tons each free of charge, unchanged from this year, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Hosei Norota said Friday.

Norota said no agreement has been reached yet on Japan's fish quota with fees paid to Russia.

Both sides will try to reach an accord on the issue by the end of this week, he said.

Analyst Interviewed on APEC's Prospects

OW0112133795 Tokyo CHUO KORON in Japanese Dec 95 pp 30-44

[Interview with Yoichi Funabashi, chief of ASAHI SHIMBUN's General Bureau for the United States, by unidentified CHUO KORON reporter; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Face of Prime Minister Murayama Is Invisible**

[CHUO KORON] The 7th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] ministerial meeting and unofficial summit to be held in Osaka is near at hand. Japan served as chairman of a summit for the first time in 1979 when it was held in Tokyo. Compared with that summit, what impression do you have, through your collection of data, concerning Japan's prior preparations and its attitude toward the reception of each head of state?

[Funabashi] The Tokyo summit of 1979 was held when Masayoshi Ohira was prime minister. News coverage was rather overheated. I was in charge of the Foreign Ministry and was active in the front lines. When they prepared for the summit, the Prime Minister's Official Residence, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI], and the Policy Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] were all excited. They were all in high spirits because Japan was recognized as an economic superpower through the hosting of the summit. When Mr. Fukuda attended the Bonn summit, which was held one year before the Tokyo summit, Japan's primary concern was to make next year's Tokyo summit successful. Therefore, Japan did everything possible to welcome its guests, such as the reduction of surpluses as well as tariffs, including color films and others. They all exerted themselves for the preparation of the Tokyo summit.

Japan's goal was very clear at that time. The recognition of Japan as an economic superpower made its stage debut glorious, although the stage was set in the Cold War framework called tripolarism — Japan, the United States, and Europe.

When the Tokyo summit came, big capitalist countries got together and tried to regulate each country's yearly oil consumption like socialism, because the world faced a second oil crisis at that time. The situation was so tense that Mr. Ohira could not do well. It came home to us that playing the role of a host country was difficult indeed.

Mr. Ohira was a politician who believed in consensus, but it did not work. When each country tries to promote its own national interest in a straightforward manner, Japan's consensus system — which emphasizes piling up from bottom to top — does not work. Mr. Ohira experienced a kind of culture shock. When the first day's meeting was over, he could not get up, being exhausted. He lost his appetite, with breakfast lying heavy on his stomach. Japan experienced the frustration that it could not do a satisfactory job when the Tokyo summit opened, despite every preparation it made for more than a year.

Compared with the Tokyo summit, it is now impossible to discern the spirit of a host country in Japan, which is supposed to do everything it can to welcome its guests. Japan's prime minister is thinking of hurting APEC from the beginning by asking member economies to remove rice from a list of liberalization. It is shameful and lamentable for Japan to do such a thing at a time when it is going to host guests. Prime Minister Murayama is totally lacking in the spirit of a warrior or a commanding spirit that deems it lamentable and shameful to do such a thing. This summer he hurriedly dispatched International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to Suharto, chairman of last year's APEC summit, and to Ramos, chairman of next year's summit, to pay his respects to them. That was all Prime Minister Murayama did, and his face is invisible.

[CHUO KORON] How does the world look at the APEC Osaka summit?

[Funabashi] I think the world is observing very closely. Japan has been unable to hold a summit meeting of this kind by inviting all the leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, even if it wanted to. I think Japan has never considered it because it has a negative image due to what it did in the prewar days.

South Korea, which does not have such an image, appealed to hold a meeting like the APEC forum. President Pak Chong-hui established ASPAC [Asian and Pacific Council] in the 1960's, and President Chon Tu-hwan appealed to hold a Pacific summit in 1982. This, however, fell through, and Japan could do nothing. Japan held the Greater East Asia Conference, which dates way back to 1943. There is a vacuum of 50 years since then. Therefore, the upcoming APEC forum is very important. I think attention will be focused on the following points: What kind of message will be issued after the adjustment of 18 leaders' opinions? What kind of leadership can Japan exercise in this region? As a practical matter, what can the APEC forum decide concretely? For example, there is the issue of liberalization. If Japan mutilates, without showing its concrete action agenda, the comprehensiveness principle adopted at the Bogor forum through its egoism, its leadership will be doubted. I think Japan will be exposed to the sharp criticism that it is still too early for Japan to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Actually, Kishore Mahbubani, second minister of foreign affairs of Singapore, said so.

What Is the Condition for Success?

[CHUO KORON] What is the condition for the success of the Osaka forum?

[Funabashi] In a word, how is the Osaka forum going to concretely implement the liberalization goal by 2020, which was adopted at the Bogor forum last year? Can the Osaka forum show the principle and route for reaching that goal? In short, the Bogor forum decided that liberalization should be applied to every field and that no exception will be made to the general principle. If an exception is made, confusion will arise, making everything an exception. Therefore, the problem is whether the problem of liberalization can be maintained without exception.

As for Japan, the problem is the liberalization of agricultural products including rice, for example. Most countries are for liberalization without exception; therefore, if an economic superpower like Japan inflicts a wound on the forum, Japan's responsibility will be questioned all the more severely.

[CHUO KORON] How about cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] and MITI, which has often been questioned in the past?

[Funabashi] Cooperation between MITI and MOFA was in a state of disconnection when APEC was established for the first time, which was evident from the following wording — three Chinas and two Japans. At the Canberra forum in 1989, the first APEC forum, both ministries wanted their representatives to make a speech, so the allotted time for Japan was halved. And all they could do was to present their compliments. Only one representative could take a seat at the main table, but both ministries wanted their ministers to take a seat there. In the end, both ministers were removed from the main table and were taken to the second table. When a certain Asian country's minister told me the story, he rolled about with laughter in retrospect. The rivalry between the two ministries was such a laughingstock.

The relationship between the two ministries is getting a little better this year. However, at last year's Bogor summit Foreign Minister Yohei Kono presented "Partners for Progress," a development program, without prior consultation with MITI, so the ministry was displeased with him. MITI is not yet straightforward with MOFA. However, compared with the past, they have finally come to run together.

[CHUO KORON] Now, you said "comprehensiveness" is the condition for the forum's success. However, there is no knowing what will happen to it.

[Funabashi] The fact is that the LDP's agricultural cliques are applying great pressure. Moreover, Japan's prime minister is from the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]. The SDPJ has been protectionist and has been saying in unison that it will not permit the import of even a grain of rice. The party has been supported by agricultural cooperatives and has been put into a straightjacket.

Furthermore, there is a kind of torsion. After Prime Minister Hosokawa's attendance at the APEC Seattle summit in 1993, Japan accepted the liberalization of rice — the minimum access agreed on at the Uruguay Round negotiations of agriculture. At that time, the LDP was an opposition party, with Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] forming the center of the coalition government. The LDP has a grudge against the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries [MAFF] on the grounds that MAFF had its own way in league with the then-government. Now the LDP's agricultural cliques are hard on MAFF. Therefore, MAFF has no elbowroom. The aftereffects of the Uruguay Round negotiations have also made the situation very difficult. Domestically, Japanese politics are in a difficult situation. MITI and MOFA may be for liberalization "without exceptions." However, who is going to restrain the LDP's agricultural cliques that are against the liberalization of rice? How is the Prime Minister's Official Residence going to apologize then? Can the three ruling parties agree on liberalization "without exceptions"? What step will Finance Minister Takemura take? These are the questions no one can answer yet.

APEC's Seven Years of History

[CHUO KORON] APEC, which was established in 1989, greets the seventh summit in Osaka this year. I would like you to tell us a little about the history of APEC.

[Funabashi] I have tried to study a little about APEC's history from the beginning, but there was not enough data. Therefore, I had to resort to direct interviews.

Some of what I have found interested me. One of them is that MITI worked hard behind the scenes when APEC was established. Prime Minister Hawke of Australia advocated the idea of APEC in January 1989. The truth is that MITI had been working for the same purpose for about one year before Hawke advocated the idea. MITI's idea was almost the same as Hawke's. In accordance with the behind-the- scenes agreement between Japan and Australia, the former asked the latter to advocate the idea. Even if Japan had tried to do so itself, no countries, Southeast Asian countries in particular, would have trusted it. Therefore, it was decided that it would be better if Australia did it.

[Funabashi continues] MITI's then-Deputy Vice Minister Shigeo Muraoka settled the matter with Australian Ambassador to the Uruguay Round Duffy. The actual "performers" were Chief Masakazu Toyota of the Americas-Oceania Division of MITI's International Trade Policy Bureau and Chief Yuichi Okumura of the General Affairs Division of MITI's International Trade

Policy Bureau. Mobilizing the brains of Mr. Toyota, Mr. Okumura secretly tackled the project with MITI's present Deputy Vice Minister Yoshihiro Sakamoto and Mr. Muraoka. However, MOFA was against the project, because it thought ASEAN would oppose it. MOFA could not tolerate Asian diplomacy being wrecked by MITI, because the Asian diplomacy had been established with much effort, with ASEAN as the centerpiece.

The fact is that MOFA itself had formulated the idea of the Pacific Rim when Mr. Ohira was prime minister. However, the plan was not realized due to ASEAN's opposition at that time. Through my study of APEC's history, I found that there were ambitious men even in the Japanese Government who foresaw the current of the times and visualized Japan's new national interest and vision. I thought it necessary to evaluate this fact properly.

APEC approved the membership of "three Chinas" in 1991. The memorandums of that time have not been disclosed because they touch secrecy. How were China, Taiwan, and Singapore accepted by APEC? How did each member of APEC record the fact? I have collected materials about these facts and have compiled them into a book (entitled "Asia Pacific Fusion — APEC and Japan" to be published by CHUO KORON on 10 November).

Now we know that China was very nervous about Taiwan from the beginning and that it was on the verge of paranoia. For example, it was terrible if there was a Republic of China [ROC] flag in the lobby when there was a meeting between the Chinese and Taiwanese sides in the hotel. It was said at the APEC Seattle summit in 1993 that Jiang Zemin would lose face if ROC flags were flown along the route from the airport to downtown Seattle. It was asked what would happen in China if such a thing occurred. What China did first was to see if there was the word Taiwan in any document. If the Chinese side found the word, it would pester the author with vexing questions at the meeting; the contents of the document did not matter. The Taiwan issue was a hidden danger that was likely to wreck APEC itself if not properly handled.

The minutes of summit meetings were not left by agreement. The most difficult task in my collection of materials was to know who said what at a particular summit meeting. Of all the verbal exchanges, what surprised me most was the one between Kim Yong-sam and Suharto at the Bogor summit. In the Bogor Declaration, the leaders committed to achieving free trade and investment in the APEC area by 2010 for industrialized economies and by 2020 for developing economies. At first, Suharto suggested that the semiadvanced economies (South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and others) achieve the goal by 2015. In short, he proposed three stages for the APEC members. At this, Kim Yong-sam said it was very impolite to treat South Korea as a newly industrializing economy [NIE]. He said South Korea was no longer an NIE and asked Suharto to retract his comment. However, Suharto said that to him, NIEs are the countries to be looked up to and that he referred to NIEs with a sense of admiration. However, scrutiny shows that the United Nations has only two categories — industrialized countries and developing countries. The United Nations does not use the term NIE. In the end, instead of three categories, two categories were adopted as Kim Yong-sam requested.

South Korea is already an industrialized country at heart. South Korea is to accomplish liberalization by 2010, but it proudly says that it may be able to attain the goal well before 2010. Therefore, the country has adopted the globalization strategy. I strongly felt South Korea's irrepressible high spirits. South Korean used diplomacy splendidly in APEC's acceptance of "three Chinas."

[CHUO KORON] You made an additional remark about South Korean diplomacy. To whom are you referring concretely?

[Funabashi] I am referring to Vice Foreign Minister Yi Si-yong. He is a Methodist and master pianist. His skill on the piano may be equal to that of former Vice Minister Kunihiko Saito of Japan's MOFA. He is a very resourceful man. As is often the case with his generation, he can read Chinese characters and can speak Japanese as well. He is well-grounded in Chinese characters, so he converses with Chinese people by means of writing. The Chinese side also regards him as a man of culture. All these made me see that a new diplomatic culture is emerging in northeast Asia after the end of the Cold War.

My research shows that another surprising thing happened at the Seattle summit. Some leaders feared that the Seattle summit might become the last of the summit meetings if not properly handled. They wanted to have regular summit meetings. For this purpose, how to win Suharto over behind the scenes? Kim Yong-sam, Australia's Keating, and Singapore's Goh Chok Tong met in secret. They decided: First, Kim Yong-sam will say, "Mr. Suharto, this year's summit was wonderful. Such a wonderful meeting should be held next year, too." Next, Goh Chok Tong will follow this up by saying, "I am of the same opinion." They decided to nod their approval here and they actually did.

[CHUO KORON] Who was the instigator among the three?

[Funabashi] It was Keating. He had long been maneuvering behind the scenes to have summit meetings at APEC.

[CHUO KORON] Would you tell us a little more about Australia?

[Funabashi] I think Japan, South Korea, and Australia are the three countries that are the most desirous of having an organization like APEC. Each of them is located in East Asia and the Pacific, has a U.S. military presence in it, and has the closest relationship with the United States. Therefore, if an organization like the EAEC [East Asia Economic Caucus] comes into being, the three countries will be placed in the most difficult situation. In short, the exclusion of the United States is intolerable. The good thing about APEC is that the United States and Asia go together. Australia has made APEC the foundation of its regional policy. Therefore, the priority of APEC is very high.

The Stance of China and the United States

[CHUO KORON] Before we go into the long-term issues of APEC, please tell us about each country's relationship with APEC.

[Funabashi] Shall we start with China? The Chinese stance towards APEC is still indecisive, or rather negative. China joined APEC in 1991. Has China presented some good ideas, or has it propelled APEC through its bilateral diplomacy for the last five years? The answer is in the negative. After the Seattle summit, one Japanese diplomat said to me, "When I talked to a Chinese diplomat, he said the U.S.-Sino summit represented the highest achievement of the Seattle summit." China does not care about multilateral diplomacy. China assumes the stance that it is the center of everything.

China has tried to take the initiative in settling the problem in the South China Sea. In the first place, China feels uncomfortable at multinational forums. It tends to think they are the products of someone's machination. The country always thinks Japan and the United States are maneuvering behind the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference [PECC] and the ASEAN Regional Forum [ARF]. There are some indications that China thinks even APEC is being manipulated by someone behind the scenes.

[CHUO KORON] What countries does China regard as manipulators?

[FUNABASHI] China thought they were the United States and Japan in the case of PECC. I think China held the same idea in the case of APEC. The country thought it was the United States in the case of ARF. However, China has gradually begun to think that its continued negative policy will only breed contempt. The country has begun to assume the attitude that if the United States emphasizes liberalization, China will emphasize development.

China calls the Asia-Pacific region a "peripheral area," which is a manifestation of the Chinese way of thinking. I hope that APEC will give China a chance to regard itself as a member of the Asia-Pacific region, instead of calling the region a peripheral area.

Now, what does APEC mean to the United States? With great enthusiasm, President Clinton initiated summit meetings for the first time at the Seattle forum. Only the United States can take such a forceful measure, for which we are very grateful to President Clinton. However, the problem of the United States is that it does not show a long-term strategy for fostering APEC, although it displayed much enthusiasm in establishing it. In the first place, the word multilateralism is a taboo word politically, and both the Republican Party and Congress dislike it. The United States does not have a full commitment to the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and APEC, saying that they are all multilateral organizations. However, for the United States to maintain its presence in the Asia-Pacific region for the security of the area, there must be some kind of expectations or compensation for the country, which, I think, are economic interests. However, economic interests should not be linked strategically with the U.S. presence in the region; for, the moment it is done, countries in the Asia-Pacific region will say that the United States is going to press for economic concessions on the strength of its preserving security in the region. The credibility of security will be doubted immediately, and these countries will think that although the United States emphasizes security, its real intention is to take advantage of them economically. To prevent such a thing from happening, it is necessary to not have strategic dealings, but a framework in which the United States can be embedded. The idea is to make a framework in which the United States is embedded so that it can reap benefits just like other APEC economies even if they conduct liberalization or any other thing. I think APEC is useful for this purpose.

A Mine Field Called the Great China

[CHUO KORON] Another country we feel uneasy about is Malaysia. What is the relationship between APEC and the EAEC? (The EAEC was called EAEG, the East Asia Economic Grouping, when it was first conceived in 1990, and then it was changed to EAEC in 1991)

[Funabishi] Mathathir says that it is natural to have such an organization in view of increased economic and trade interdependence in Asia. Even the United States has NAFTA [North Atlantic Free Trade Area]. What is wrong with our forming an organization like the EAEC? If we can further promote liberalization through EAEC, it will be quite appropriate. This is his reasoning.

However, when we consider why he conceived such an idea at the time when international politics was whirling, we can see some different pictures, or different pictures of EAEC. One of them is the politics of identity conducted in Malaysia. In other words, Malaysia sits on the balance between citizens of Chinese ancestry and citizens of Malaysian ancestry. The economic power of citizens of Chinese ancestry is very strong. Politicians cannot be elected without getting votes of citizens of Chinese ancestry, but they must always provide something for citizens of Malaysian ancestry, too. Malaysia aims at accomplishing its nation-building policy based on a new vision by 2020. With the end of the Cold War, every country is looking for a new national vision or its own national identity. Such a tendency fosters specialization in something ethnic. Citizens of Chinese ancestry are deepening their consciousness of being Chinese; citizens of Malaysian ancestry have begun to have great confidence in themselves, and this confidence makes them assume a defiant attitude toward citizens of Chinese ancestry. If such a thing happens, the Malaysian balance will collapse. Therefore, to overcome this, the creation of a new identity becomes necessary. This is the identity of being east Asians, the identity of an "East Asian Renaissance." Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and Japan are all in east Asia. They have all come out. Mahathir tries to infuse the identity of Chinese and Malaysian ancestry into such a new identity, and tries to conduct politics based on this new identity. For Mahathir, the EAEC is a kind of setting for this purpose.

Another issue is the rivalry between Mahathir and Suharto. APEC has gone to such an extent as to advocate liberalization. Mahathir's contention is that his attitude differs from such a move.

Then a Chinese element comes in. The fact is that this is the most dangerous point to Japan. Japan's Asian principle, or believers in Japan's Asian principle, uphold Asia without giving adequate consideration to "how China exists in Asia, or what kind of a Chinese image should be incorporated into an Asian image." Therefore, their primary concern is Southeast Asia. However, EAEC, as conceived by Mahathir, takes in Japan and upholds China at the same time. I think Japan should not take sides with such an idea. It is important for us to drag China out from the Asia-Pacific region to a more global place, to make it observe international laws, and to make it observe its commitments thoroughly. It is important to make China understand that the world does not move according to the conditions or terms set by it, or according to theories which are applicable only in the overseas Chinese society or in the backyard of China. The danger of the EAEC is that it is likely to cover Southeast Asia as well as southern China, the Greater China. It is too bad if China acts as it pleases in this area. It is important for China to follow the same rules in a global area. Chinese provinces along the coast are moving toward that direction little by little. However, the economic space and the political space envisioned by the EAEC cover from the Chinese society in southern China to Southeast Asia and the so-called Greater China. There is a danger that China and Japan will be stimulated to have an excessive sense of rivalry in this potential Greater China zone. This is a very negative element from the standpoint of the balance of power and the vision of a new order in Asia. From the standpoint of Southeast Asia, this may be to make Japan and China compete with each other, but Japan should not be drawn into this matter. We had better think of maintaining the balance of power among Japan, the United States, and China by including the Pacific Ocean and the United States to make the area a little more global.

It is also necessary to consider the problem of the EAEC from the standpoint of policy. At last we are greeting the age when we do not have to choose the East or the West, or Asia or the Pacific. The reason is that Asia is becoming global. In the process of the globalization of Asia, it has been connected to GATT or WTO, and at last the time has come for Asia and the Pacific to go together. We should attach importance to APEC; we should be spared from the burden of choosing either APEC or the EAEC; the cardinal point and strategy of diplomacy is to prevent the EAEC from becoming a reality. From such a diplomatic strategy, we had better contain the EAEC. This is the first point.

The second point is the problem of the U.S. presence. In other words, the decisive defect of the EAEC envisioned by Mahathir is that he does not show a clear vision of security in his economic plan, in his plan of the EAEC. In the case of APEC, the U.S. military presence forms a parallel unit. In other words, the vision is that APEC forms an economic underlying structure, that ARF lies on it, and that the Japan-U.S. security treaty sits on the top of these two structures. The EAEC lacks such a vision. At the APEC Seoul forum in 1991, when South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok leaned toward the EAEC, Baker said, "Did the Malaysians shed blood with you during the Korean War? It was the Americans who fought with you, was it not?" In short, Baker wanted to say that no countries are equal in international politics, and he wanted the minister to make a comment on this understanding. Yi Sang-ok turned deadly pale. South Korea has said not a word about the EAEC since then.

In the last analysis, it is the problem of security. I understand that Baker's theory or style is not popular now that the Cold War is over. However, I think it necessary to pair the economy with security when new regionalism is envisioned.

Japan Without National Virtue

[CHUO KORON] Please let me ask again about the relationship between Japan and APEC.

[Funabashi] Through my recent collection of materials, I really found that Japan is not trusted. When the EAEC becomes the topic of talk, South Korea and the United States think that Japan is maneuvering behind the scenes. Cho Sung-sun, the current chairman of the Trade and Investment Committee of South Korea's National Assembly, is the closest aide to Kim Dae-jung. He said, "Japan is great. APEC is, in short, new colonialism by the United States. The Bogor Declaration is new colonialism. To put the brakes on new colonialism, Japan is running the EAEC through Mahathir's cooperation. Japan is truly great. South Korea must learn from Japan." That is nothing but overestimation. When the EAEC was formed, Baker thought that Japan was pulling the strings. Baker was so serious that Mahathir, too, became serious. I do not think Baker's way of doing things was good. Japan has got along well with the United States for the past several decades since the end of World War II. When Mahathir happened to say that he prevailed on Japan to go with him, the United States thought that "Japan was in danger." This made me sad. I strongly felt the miserable weakness of Japan's diplomacy: Has Japan been distrusted so deeply? Is Japan's diplomacy hopeless, having no power to express itself clearly?

However, this phenomenon is not confined to Japan only. The world has now greeted the age of a new grouping. The United States and Russia cannot follow the age of this new grouping, the United States in particular. Why is it? The reason is that the United States still has the idea of power blocs. With the end of the Cold War, each country is looking for a new group. In the midst of this, the United States expresses its doubt by asking, "Is this power bloc anti-U.S. or not?" All kinds of power blocs are being born. Therefore, the United States is confused when it hears that east Asia and the EU [European Union] are going to have a new summit. In short, the United States is alarmed when, after the end of the Cold War, a new grouping is discussed without the participation of the United States, at summit meetings attended by Europe and Japan. However, it cannot saying anything. Therefore the United States expresses its doubt by asking, "Who started this, France or Germany?

This is the case with other countries. When Australia advocated APEC for the first time, Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, who was one of the highest authorities on international affairs and who was also Thailand's UN ambassador, said he thought that the United States had maneuvered behind the scenes. He said that the United States had made Australia do it, because if the United States did it, it would be conspicuous. When I asked why the United States had asked Australia to do it, he said it was cost reduction, or burden sharing.

Therefore, it is safe to say that we have come to the age of doubt. Doubts have been raised about Japan, in particular. The moment the Foreign Ministry released "Partners for Progress," a development program, it incurred suspicion: "Japan may be thinking something behind the scenes. Japan is trying to deceive us by other means because it is opposed to rice liberalization. Japan may be trying to do something behind the scenes in league with China. Japan has funds for ODA [Official Development Assistance], but other Asian countries do not, so Japan is trying to buy up all these countries with the funds. Japan's development program may be a stratagem for that purpose." Japan does not have natural virtue.

Japan tends to look at society in terms of the vertical relationship, and it is poor at establishing the horizontal relationship. These traits are apt to be reflected in the international community. Therefore, the vertical relationship, — the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, as well as the Japan-U.S. security treaty which is a one-sided treaty and which is a bilateral relationship based on the vertical relationship, goes well. However, when it comes to the multilateral relationship, Japan is not good at presenting its national interest in a subtle and appropriate way. The multilateral relationship has the effect of diluting undisguised power. When such power is diluted, it is power that exercises influence ultimately. How to maintain national interest on a long-term basis and in an open way through the effective use of power? A country that can do this is respected. Minor and medium-sized countries are especially sensitive about this. I think Japan will be trusted only when it learns to exercise such an influence. Japan's past problems or its historical problems can be solved only through accumulation of such daily, individual, and small activities. It is not enough to go and bow at the Marco Polo Bridge in China.

Strengthening and Maintaining the Japan-U.S. Alliance

[CHUO KORON] What do you think about the relationship between APEC and the difficult Japan-U.S.-China problem?

[Funabashi] After all, the mid- and long-term task of APEC is to balance the Japan-U.S.-China relationship well in this region. Nobody says so, but if somebody does, APEC will not progress. Nevertheless, this fact remains somewhere in the background of everybody's mind. It is because Japan, the United States, and China are in APEC that the other APEC members are serious.

Furthermore, Europe has been excited for the last two years because Japan, the United States, and China are in APEC. Therefore, Europe has proposed that a summit meeting be held between Europe and east Asia. We must take this as a major premise. When we say APEC, we must not take it as a mere meeting. How should we manage the game of Japan, the United States, and China in this region, the big game of the 21st century? We must regard APEC as a stage, framework, and process of that management.

By the way, Japan, the United States, and China have their own dead angles, or weaknesses. As the United States is a unilateral country, it forces its own methods or conditions on others. If other countries do not like them, the United States returns to isolationism, saying, "Then I do not care." The United States is a dangerous country with a wide range of variation. The country is now in the state of a very dangerous, inward-looking shaking.

China tries to manage the world according to a self-centered, Chinese way of thinking. The country tries to naturalize the world, or tries to make the world pledge allegiance to it. If there are countries that do not conform, they are told to get out. This was manifested in a violent form during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Japan upholds a kind of internationalism and is for adoption and adjustment. In short, the country wants to adjust itself to the world. The world exists as a given condition and Japan tries everything possible to adapt itself to the world. However, if things do not go well, it is urged to choose a policy of seclusion.

Each of the three big powers displays a very peculiar behavior, as well as peculiar politics, diplomacy, and culture in its relationship with the international community. To prevent each country from doing that, Japan-U.S., U.S.-Sino, and Japan-Sino relationships must be firmly established to promote mutual trust by lessening mutual misunderstanding. Even if we ask APEC's cooperation in this matter, it cannot do it. Therefore, first of all, each of the three countries must learn to apply a rule to, or control, the triangular relationship in principle. How can we do it? Practically speaking, we must strengthen the Japan-U.S. security treaty. In this region, the Japan-U.S. relationship is closer than the U.S.-Sino and Japan-Sino relationships. I think the most stable form is an isosceles triangle with the United States and Japan at the base. Through this, Southeast Asia and Australia will become stable. However, if the United States tries to form the base of the triangle with China, Japan will feel an intense sense of anxiety and crisis. And, if Japan tries to form the base of the triangle with China, the United States will feel an intense sense of anxiety and crisis. Other member economies will feel the same thing, collapsing the balance in the region.

The next thing to do is to make a side, making ASEAN and ARF the fourth leg. ARF is supposed to cover the whole of the Asia-Pacific region, but Southeast Asia is its center. If possible, one similar to ARF, whose center is in Southeast Asia, should be gradually made in northeast Asia. APEC will form the base of these, and Japan, the United States, and China will act as responsible players in this multilateral regional framework. However, only when there is a Japan-U.S. alliance will China become serious. After all, the problem is how to newly reaffirm, maintain, and strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance after the end of the Cold War. Particularly, the problem is how to make good use of the alliance in the region's framework.

[CHUO KORON] We would like you to make a comment about your new book published in connection with APEC.

[Funabashi] There are three objectives for my writing this book. At first, I wanted to write only about Japan and APEC. When I began to conduct research, I found that nothing had been written about APEC. Especially, the contents of summit meetings had been hidden in a veil of mystery. Therefore, I decided to write the history of APEC first of all. I studied the history of APEC and wrote a paper on APEC. This was my first objective.

I found it inadequate to treat APEC only as something economic, that is, merely as economic liberalization, although this is the most important thing. Therefore, as my second objective, I tried to observe the background of APEC from the standpoint of international politics as well as civilization. Professor Masakazu Yamasaki wrote an exciting thesis on APEC seen from the standpoint of civilization. The thing is that we cannot see APEC at all unless it is seen from that viewpoint, too.

Last of all, I wrote about Japan's self-recognition in the Asia-Pacific region, about Japan's awareness of Asia, and explained about the relationship between Japan and APEC from the standpoint of Japan's policy toward Asia, as well as through the analysis of Asia's historical and political background. And I made some suggestions regarding Japan's policy toward APEC. I wrote my book with these objectives in mind.

Murayama To Help Mongolia Achieve Market Economy

OW0112081095 Tokyo KYODO in English 0724 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO — Mongolia's Foreign Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren urged Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama on Friday [1 December] to continue Japan's economic aid to his country, saying it is helping democratization and the shift toward a market economy, government officials said.

Murayama told the foreign minister that he wants to continue cooperating with Mongolia so that it can better shift toward a market economy, the officials said.

Japan extended economic assistance worth 12 billion yen to Mongolia in fiscal 1994.

The Mongolian foreign minister, who arrived Monday, will leave for home Saturday.

The two met at the prime minister's office in Tokyo.

Ex-Im Head: Overseas Concern Exaggerated

OW0212034695 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO — Overseas concern about the health of Japan's banking system appears greater than the actual situation warrants, the head of the Export-Import Bank of Japan [Ex-Im Bank] says.

The concern is understandable, however, in view of serious problems such as the Daiwa Bank scandal and the failure of credit unions, Hiroshi Yasuda said in a recent interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, referring to the impression he received when he attended the World Bank's general assembly in October.

Problems related to the Japanese financial system can be resolved without confusion in a few years, Yasuda said, noting that although nonperforming assets total 37 trillion yen, "actual pains" after subtracting security amount to some 10 trillion yen.

The former top bureaucrat of the Finance Ministry admitted that overseas concern about the system is largely attributable to the insufficient disclosure of information on problem loans by Japanese financial institutions.

But the institutions did not conceal the information, Yasuda said, adding they considered disclosure unnecessary because they are under the ministry's heavy protection.

In the face of financial liberalization and internationalization, however, Japan should have a financial system free from foreign criticism, he said, and that ideally banks should avoid going bankrupt by disclosing enough information to let depositors closely monitor their operations.

With regard to the Ex-Im Bank's operations, Yasuda said it will open a representative office in Hong Kong in October to boost its project financing in Asia.

In particular, the bank will further promote "untied" loans which have greatly contributed to economic development in developing countries, he said.

On the combination of the bank and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Yasuda said a key factor is to prevent the amalgamation from creating an impression that Japan will use official development assistance for business purposes.

The Finance Ministry, the Economic Planning Agency and other parties concerned are expected to push ahead with preparations to realize the combination due to take place in four years, he added.

Takemura 'Expects To Use' Public Fund for Jusen

OW0212110895 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SAPPORO, Dec. 2 KYODO — Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Saturday [2 December] he expects to use taxpayers' money to dispose of problem loans amassed by ailing Japanese housing loan companies [jusen] in line with a set of guidelines announced Friday by a ruling coalition panel.

"The government has to consider making public commitments (to the housing loan problem)," Takemura said in a speech delivered at a hotel in Sapporo, northern Japan. "Both the Bank of Japan and the government must decide on certain support (for the issue)."

The guidelines compiled by a policy coordination council of the coalition — Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — call for the use of public funds under strict conditions when it is absolutely necessary.

The pointers also suggests that a new vehicle be set up to take over loans from seven of Japan's eight mortgage lenders and recover them with strong powers of enforcement.

Takemura officially endorsed the idea, saying, "An organization will be established to try and recover loans which will be transferred from mortgage companies."

Shinozawa Cautious About Public Funds for Jusen

OW0412145695 Tokyo KYODO in English
1020 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO — Vice Finance Minister Kyosuke Shinozawa expressed a cautious view Monday [4 December] about the use of taxpayers' money for the liquidation of ailing Japanese housing loan companies [jusen] as proposed by a ruling coalition panel.

"It is an issue which requires careful study to the very end," Shinozawa said at a press conference.

A policy coordination council of the tripartite ruling coalition last Friday proposed the conditional use of government-backed finance and emergency Bank of Japan loans as part of guidelines on how to dispose of problem loans amassed by seven of Japan's eight housing lenders.

Shinozawa said the council went into specifics about the use of public money.

"The point is where we should place such funds in a whole disposal scheme when defining the share of burden among parties concerned," he said.

The council urged two warring ministries — the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry — to finalize the liquidation scheme for housing lenders by the end of this week in line with the guidelines.

The mortgage firms were founded mainly by major commercial banks before the burst of the "bubble economy" of the late 1980s. The founder banks are supervised by the Finance Ministry while agriculture-related financial institutions, which are supervised by the farm ministry, extended huge amounts of money to the housing lenders during the bubble era.

Shinozawa said his ministry has already started close negotiations with the farm ministry accordingly.

A set of guidelines by the council is a stepping stone to the settlement of the longstanding bad loan problem at the housing loan companies, he said.

"Although an agreement by parties concerned is the most important, the two ministries will positively participate in putting together the disposal plan because of no time to lose and conflict in interests among parties concerned," he said.

Difficulties of Liquidating Jusen Loan Viewed

OW0112154695 Tokyo KYODO in English
1520 GMT 1 Dec 95

[By Keiji Urakami]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO — Longstanding feuding over how to clean up the bad-loan mess at ailing Japanese housing lenders [jusen] took a major stride toward solution when the tripartite ruling coalition unveiled a new framework for their disposal Friday [1 December].

But difficulties still lie ahead, with none of the parties involved appearing fully convinced by the fresh proposal.

A policy coordination council of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] on Friday issued a set of guidelines for the liquidation of seven of Japan's eight mortgage companies, proposing the establishment of a new entity to take over their massive problem loans and convert them into cash via sales of real estate property put up as collateral.

The guidelines call for the conditional use of government-backed financing and emergency bank of Japan loans.

The process leading up to Friday's proposal saw more than a little rough-and-tumble between the Finance Ministry and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry.

The Finance Ministry represents the banks that founded the housing lenders in the 1970s while the farm ministry backs financial institutions affiliated with the nation's agricultural cooperatives, the largest group of creditors to the seven lenders.

At issue is how to devise a formula to apportion the expected huge loss of 7.4 trillion yen between the two groupings after the dissolution of the seven lenders.

The farm financial institutions claim that the founding banks should take full responsibility for putting up the necessary money. However, the founders say the financial burden should be equally shouldered among all creditors in proportion to the loans extended, a scheme that would expose the financially fragile farm financial institutions to possible bankruptcy.

Apparently due to the political bind, Friday's guidelines left ambiguous the issue of how to share the loss among the concerned parties.

But they indirectly implied that the founding banks should take chief responsibility in the scheme by saying that both the process leading up to the seven housing lenders' plunge into their current plight and the financial strength of the concerned parties should be carefully considered in crafting the final disposal scheme.

Those reading that phrasing interpret it to mean that the founders should give up all their claims on the seven lenders — worth 3.6 trillion yen — while agricultural-affiliated financial institutions should not waive any of their claims, estimated at 5.5 trillion yen.

That interpretation seemed to be borne out when Michio Ochi, who heads a task force for the Policy Coordination Council, told reporters that the principal on mortgage-bound loans held by farm-related financial institutions should be guaranteed.

But he quickly added that the farm institutions should provide some kind of financial assistance, such as capital and donations, to the loan-buying entity.

This scheme still favors the farm institutions, apparently reflecting the strong influence of farming constituencies in Japan's political circles. The LDP, the largest force in the three-party coalition, has mainly been backed by the nation's farmers.

The scheme nevertheless still falls short of expectations by the agricultural financial sector.

Kenichi Kakudo, the head of Norinchukin Bank, the central institution for agricultural cooperatives, told reporters that the bank will "take the guidelines seriously."

But he added that the return of the loan principal by agricultural financial institutions is a minimum right which must be pursued.

He then said, "Founding banks should fulfill a maximum responsibility."

"But for the founders to merely relinquish their credits does not mean fulfilling maximum responsibility," Kakudo said, thereby suggesting the need to formulate a final disposal scheme that would keep the farm organs totally immune from financial burden.

Meanwhile, the founding banks were not fully impressed by the new guidelines either.

One executive of a major commercial bank that founded one of the seven housing lenders said, "We will continue bargaining with farm financial institutions to win more advantageous conditions."

An official at one long-term credit bank, also a founder, said, "We will maintain resistance to the farm organs until the very end."

The Finance Ministry, which was believed to have stood on the side of the founding banks, appears to be departing from its original stance.

Yoshimasa Nishimura, chief of the Finance Ministry's Banking Bureau, summoned presidents of the founding banks to the ministry on Friday and asked that they cooperate in forging a disposal scheme on the basis of the latest guidelines, banking sources said.

The Bank of Japan [BOJ] reacted against the ruling coalition's proposal, thereby throwing doubt on the practicality of a disposal scheme worked out under the guidelines.

A senior BOJ official said the central bank has no intention of extending loans to help liquidate the ailing housing lenders.

The ruling parties had not informed the BOJ beforehand that it would be asked to provide loans for the dissolution of the mortgage lenders, the official said.

The ruling coalition asked the Finance and Agriculture Ministries to come up with a conclusion by the end of next week.

Editorial Criticizes MOF for Monetary Policy

OW0212121095 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "MOF Should Take Responsibility for Its Mistake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate Banking Committee (chaired by Alphonse D'Amato) held a public hearing on 27 November to investigate illegal transactions involving Daiwa Bank's New York branch and its U.S subsidiary trust company.

Testifying before the committee, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, along with other witnesses, sternly criticized Japan's Ministry of Finance [MOF] for its secrecy over the scandal.

The Daiwa scandal was also taken up at the meeting of financial ministers and central bankers from the seven major industrialized nations (G-7) and a U.S. House of Representatives public hearing held last October. Seeing this, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and Yoshimasa Nishimura, the MOF's banking bureau director general, tried to attribute the two-month delay in informing U.S. authorities of the incident to "cultural differences between Japan and the Untied States."

Unconvinced, Greenspan at the hearing flatly declared "it was a mistake by the MOF." Committee Chairman D'Amado also said: "Japan must abandon its secrecy." We agree.

Japan's financial system has collapsed as seen in the 40 trillion yen in nonperforming loans stemming from the Daiwa Bank scandal and the bankruptcy of housing loan corporations (jusen). As a result, its financial credibility was seriously damaged not only at home but also aboard. What on earth do the Murayama cabinet, the MOF, the Bank of Japan [BOJ], and the financial world think of it and how do they intend to take responsibility for this mess?

Since the exposure of the Daiwa Bank scandal, the MOF and Daiwa are busy making excuses to the United States. Takemura reportedly telephoned the U.S. treasury secretary to apologize for the MOF's reporting failure and the deputy vice minister for financial affairs sent a letter of apology to the New York State Banking Department. However, no apology has made to the nation's Diet and the money market. In the meantime, Daiwa and Sumitomo Banks continually refuse to disclose information on their possible merger, much to the consternation of investors.

The MOF and the BOJ must be held accountable for a series of monetary policy fiascoes and bank scandals. The government and the monetary authorities failed to revamp the financial system to replace the traditional policy of protection of banks, which became outdated in the late 1980's, with the globalization of monetary transactions. While urging the financial industry to liberalize and internationalize, the government and the BOJ failed to provide sufficient risk control and crisis management. They have postponed measures needed to respond to the crunch, which plummeting land and stock prices portended.

The absence of active debate in the Diet on these gross failures is baffling. The emergence of the coalition government is said to have loosened political control over the bureaucracy. Dietmen tied to the MOF and those representing the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry are engaged in an ugly battle over the disposal of bad loans held by mortgage companies. An independent, disinterested special committee should be set up to probe the responsibility of the monetary authorities, without allowing them to seek a settlement among themselves. Internal efforts for a remedy do not ensure transparency.

Calls are being made for dismantling the MOF, reorganizing the ministry, and creating a separate agency of monetary affairs. The BOJ law could then be amended to establish a more independent central bank that would look after monetary policy. Obviously, the MOF is opposed, insisting that tampering with the organization is counterproductive.

The ministry is urged to humbly heed the criticism being raised against it both at home and abroad. What is being questioned is its closed-door nature, its habit of looking down on the private sector, and its arrogance. It is time that the government came up with a drastic plan to rebuild the financial system with administrative reform in view.

Justice Minister Approves Ex-Minister's Arrest

*OW0412033395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0257 GMT 4 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO — Justice Minister Hiroshi Miyazawa gave prosecutors the go-ahead Monday [4 December] to obtain a warrant from the Tokyo district court for the arrest of former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi in connection with a loan scandal, prosecution sources said.

Miyazawa gave the green light to set in motion the legal procedure for obtaining parliamentary permission to arrest Yamaguchi because Diet members enjoy immunity from arrest while the Diet is in session.

Armed with Miyazawa's endorsement, prosecutors promptly asked the Tokyo court to obtain an arrest warrant, officials said.

The House of Representatives, of which Yamaguchi is a member, is expected to vote Thursday on the request from the prosecutors for permission to arrest him.

Yamaguchi, 55, has refused to present himself for questioning by prosecutors over the scandal involving two failed credit unions and his relatives.

Yamaguchi was a senior member of the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) but left the party in March following revelations of shady loans from the two credit unions, Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association and Anzen Credit Bank, to companies run by his sister Yoshie Yamaguchi, 59, and brother Katsuto Nemoto, 50.

After prosecutors ask the cabinet later Monday to sanction the arrest of Yamaguchi, the cabinet will speedily relay the request to the Diet, a government spokesman said.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and 20 other cabinet ministers will decided on the request to the Diet either at an ad hoc cabinet meeting Monday or a regular cabinet meeting Tuesday morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka said.

Leaders of the three ruling parties — Murayama of the Social Democratic Party, Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of the Liberal Democratic Party and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura of the New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] will promptly discuss the procedure, Nosaka told a press conference.

More on Former Minister's Role

OW0212133195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1256 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO — The former head of a bankrupt credit union said illegal loans he arranged were intended to help former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi pay off debts incurred by companies run by Yamaguchi's relatives, investigative sources said Saturday [2 December].

Yamaguchi himself had shouldered joint liability for part of those debts, they said.

Harunori Takahashi, 50, former head of Tokyo Kyowa Credit Association, told prosecutors that he had recognized the loans were meant to pay off debts incurred by firms run by Yamaguchi's relatives during consultations beforehand with the ex-minister, the sources said.

His remarks could fuel suspicions of Yamaguchi's involvement in conspiracy in receiving illicit loans.

Prosecutors suspect that Yamaguchi, a 55-year-old independent member of the House of Representatives, urged Takahashi to extend the illegal loans because he himself shouldered joint liability for part of the debts incurred by his relatives' firms, the sources said.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office is likely to seek an arrest warrant for Yamaguchi as early as Monday for his alleged conspiracy with Takahashi to withdraw illicit loans from two failed credit unions — Tokyo Kyowa and Anzen Credit Bank.

Because members of the Diet cannot be arrested during a Diet session without the approval of the lawmaking body, prosecutors are likely to begin the process for obtaining the Diet's consent to arrest Yamaguchi, as well as seeking arrest warrant.

Yamaguchi has remained firm in his refusal to submit to questioning by prosecutors over the scandal involving his relatives and two failed credit unions.

According to the sources, Takahashi admitted he held consultation talks with Yamaguchi in May 1994 before the failed credit unions began extending illegal loans to a company owned by the ex- minister's sister, Yoshie Yamaguchi.

Through the talks, Takahashi knew that massive amounts of loans from the failed credit unions would be used for paying back debts of firms run by Yamaguchi's relatives, including one run by his brother Katsuto Nemoto.

About 40 percent of the illegal loans, which eventually led both the former minister's sister Yoshie Yamaguchi, 59, and Nemoto, 52, to be taken into custody, were used for paying back debts that Yamaguchi himself was required to return because of his joint liability, the sources said.

Takahashi appeared to have told investigators that he knew about Yamaguchi's joint liability but not about the details of the debt payments, the sources said.

Yamaguchi's refusal to submit to questioning came two days after prosecutors raided his condominium and office in a search for evidence of his suspected breach of trust and embezzlement. Prosecutors raided his condominium and office on Nov. 28.

Yamaguchi was a senior member of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) but quit in March following revelations of shady loans from the two credit unions.

Keidanren Head on Importance of Deregulation

OW0112153195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1507 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Dec. 1 KYODO — The head of an influential Japanese business group said Friday [1 December] that Japan needs to drastically change its economic and social systems and revitalize its economy by promoting deregulation.

Japan must reform itself into a more comfortable and attractive country, said Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), in an address before some 200 British political and business leaders gathered at Chatham House.

Toyoda also said it is reasonable for people in Europe and the United States to doubt that Japan will successfully carry out deregulation due to the lack of political leadership and bureaucratic resistance.

Sources close to Toyoda said his remarks were aimed at stressing Keidanren's efforts to reform the Japanese economy through deregulation as a step to contribute to the creation of new relations between Japan and Europe.

Referring to controversial Japan-U.S. auto trade negotiations which were concluded earlier this year, Toyoda said trade problems should be resolved at the private level so as to prevent them from becoming political.

Article Discusses Defense Program Outline

OW0112142495 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Nov 95 Morning Edition p 2

[First in the series of articles "Post-Cold War; New Defense Policy Outline Begins To Take Effect"; this installment entitled "Importance Attached Not to Quantity, But Quality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The aim is to make "Self-Defense Forces that are tough and slim".... On 28 November the government approved a new defense policy outline, which will become a guideline for improving Japan's post-Cold War defense capability. While calling for a reduction of the Ground, Maritime, and Air Self-Defense Forces [SDF], the new outline launches a plan to strengthen the SDF in terms of quality. It also aims at changing the SDF to an "SDF with multiple functions" capable of dealing with various post-Cold War dangers, including major natural disasters and terrorism. However, the new outline became more ambiguous than the current defense outline in explaining grounds for introducing an "appropriate scale" of Japan's defense power. It is also noticeable that the government failed to exert thorough efforts for reviewing Japan's defense capability because it had given too much consideration to the reality.

Air-Mobile Brigade Formed

Following the 28 November approval of the new defense outline, Tetsuya Nishimoto, head of the Defense Agency [DA] brass and chairman of the Joint Staff Council, made an unprecedented speech to 240,000 SDF personnel across the nation. He said: "I want you to do your best at where you are by accepting the recent outline as a reform needed for improving the SDF for the 21st century." He made the speech to contain the unrest within the SDF, which will face the largest scaledown since it was formed in 1954.

The new outline will reduce the maximum quota for the Ground SDF personnel from 180,000 to 145,000. At the same time, it also launched a major "downsizing plan" designed to eliminate three district units and three antisubmarine aircraft units for the Maritime SDF, and one interceptor unit for the Air SDF.

Chairman Nishimoto, who mapped out the new outline while controlling the SDF brass who are against the military reduction, looks back upon the past, saying: "It was an issue of how to maintain a balanced defense power within the extent of limited resources." Japan will continue to face a severe financial situation and a population reduction of young people in the future. With such a prospect for the future, Nishimoto felt certain that the SDF would be able to deal with versatile incidents similar to the subway sarin attack if he could lower the quota to the actual number of SDF personnel and upgrade the SDF's capability of coping with changes by improving its equipment and logistical support system.

The new outline will deploy a large number of helicopters to the Ground SDF's 12th Division (with its headquarters in Shinto-son of Gunma Prefecture) in the central region of Honshu, and to reorganize it into a "air mobile brigade" capable of responding to emergencies at a time of major earthquakes and other natural disaster. This idea was formed as an eye-catcher for the plan to strengthen the SDF's capability of coping with changes.

Conspicuous Ratification of Status Quo

After all, it is difficult to say that the recent review of Japan's defense capability is truly a fundamental one. Following a decline of the threat from the Russian Far East military, the Ground SDF reduced and downgraded two divisions stationed in Hokkaido. The 7th Division (with its headquarters in Chitose City), which is a most prized tank division, will continue to be deployed in Hokkaido.

A senior DA official smiled wryly and said: "There is no other place where the tank unit can train." As he disclosed, it is undeniable that the process of mapping out the new outline was "affected by the reality" in various areas.

Flimsy Reason for Keeping Defensive Power

The DA did not incorporate in the new outline a plan to "independently deal with limited small-scale invasions." This was described in the old defense outline as a yardstick of improving defense capability. It is said that the DA was apprehensive of the possibility that some people may think it is a defense power to "confront threats." This conversely "made it difficult for us to explain why we need defensive power of this scale," (said a senior DA official).

Moreover, the fact that the DA decided to retain a portion of the Air SDF's fighter aircraft unit as a training unit [kyoiku butai], which is not included in a table attached to a defense program outline, lowered the value of the "table" itself. The new outline was meant to emphasize the significance of the SDF in the post-Cold War era. Ironically, it turned out that the outline, contrary to its intention, made the theoretical grounds needed for keeping defense power vague.

While rereading the new outline, a senior DA official candidly explained his apprehension, saying: "Can the new outline really gain the understanding of the people?" Following the approval of the new outline, the government will start drawing up a "new mid-term defense buildup plan" (for the period between FY96 and FY2000.) However, the largest focal point of discussion at government meetings will be whether or not it should approve a plan for the mass production of the Air SDF's next-generation support fighter (FSX), which is a next-generation assault aircraft and costs about 8 billion yen.

Soka Gakkai Head Rejects Religious Group Law

OW0412154095 Tokyo KYODO in English
1000 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 Kyodo — The president of the nation's largest lay Buddhist group Soka Gakkai, testifying before a special Diet panel Monday [4 December] criticized a planned revision of the law on religious groups as threatening the freedom of belief.

Einosuke Akiya told a House of Councillors special committee as an unsworn witness that the revision "is intended to tighten state control over religious corporations and could endanger the freedom of belief."

"There is a hidden aim to keep religious groups under state control," Akiya said in the nationally televised panel session.

Akiya made the remarks in opposing a bill proposed by the ruling coalition for revising the 1951 Religious Corporation Law to tighten control over religious groups.

Ahead of the possible enactment of the bill Friday, debate over the matter reached a climax with six people expressing their opinions as unsworn witnesses.

The ruling coalition — the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — had tried to force Daisaku Ikeda, Soka Gakkai's honorary president and de facto leader, to appear before the panel for testimony but agreed last week on a compromise to call in Akiya instead.

Asked about his body's cooperation in election campaigns with the largest opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), Akiya said they are "partial operations in a limited period."

Shinshinto, formed in December 1994 through a merger of nine opposition parties, claims the bill is politically motivated and aims to deal a blow to Soka Gakkai, which supports Shinshinto.

Political analysts say Soka Gakkai played a large role in Shinshinto's success in the July upper poll.

Akiya also brushed aside a charge that Soka Gakkai uses for election campaigns tax-free funds that religious [as received] are allowed to collect under the current religious law.

"We never do anything that infringes on the law," Akiya said.

Two of five other unsworn witnesses also expressed opposition to the bill but the remaining three said they are in favor of the revision.

Kenji Okamoto, president of the Association of Shinto Shrines, said he supports the bill if it serves to prevent crimes by religious groups as seen in a series of criminal acts attributed to the religious group Aum Shinrikyo.

"In principle, I oppose the current law which does not pay due attention to the situation of Shinto shrines," said Okamoto, whose association groups some 80,000 Shinto shrines nationwide.

"If a revision of the law is effective in preventing crimes like those committed by Aum Shinrikyo, a partial revision cannot be helped," Okamoto said.

The religious law revision bill is set to be enacted Friday, when a vote on the bill will be taken in the upper house, which is controlled by the ruling coalition.

The bill already passed through the House of Representatives last month.

Among the bill's measures to revise the 1951 law is a requirement that religious organizations report details of their financial affairs to authorities.

Under the bill, the education minister rather than prefectural governors will have jurisdiction over religious groups that operate in more than one prefecture.

Witnesses Give Testimonies on Religious Law

OW0412065495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0439 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO — Three unsworn witnesses gave testimonies over a bill to revise the law on religious groups before a special House of Councillors panel Monday morning [4 December] with two in favor of the revision and one against.

The witnesses were summoned amid a row between the ruling coalition and the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) over whether to rewrite the 1951 religious corporation law to tighten government control over religious groups.

Shinshinto opposes the bill on the grounds that it is politically motivated with a view to denting the political clout of Soka Gakkai, a lay Buddhist group that supports Shinshinto.

Testifying before the upper house panel set up to discuss a revision of the law, Kenji Okamoto, president of the Association of Shinto Shrines, said he supports the bill if it serves to prevent crimes by religious groups as seen in a series of criminal acts attributed to the religious group Aum Shinrikyo.

"In principle, I oppose the current law which does not pay attention to the situation of Shinto shrines," said Okamoto, whose association groups some 80,000 Shinto shrines nationwide.

"If a revision of the law is effective in preventing crimes like those committed by Aum Shinrikyo, a partial revision cannot be helped," Okamoto said.

Hirohisa Kitano, a professor at Nihon University, also supported the bill, which he said is designed to make the minimum and necessary changes in the 1951 law so as to meet religious groups that are making use of the law as they are given tax privileges under the law.

"If (the religious groups) are virtually acting as political groups or profit-making organizations, they should not be treated as religious groups when taxed," he said.

The bill in question does not call for reviewing such tax privileges but stipulates that religious groups be required to report details of their financial affairs to government authorities.

Among other measures, the bill would give the education minister rather than prefectural governors jurisdiction over religious groups that operate in more than one prefecture.

Ken Arai, professor of Komazawa University, opposed the bill on the grounds that it would not make the law tailored to its main purpose of giving a legal status to religious organizations and not keeping them under control.

"The bill deviates from the purpose of the law and could endanger the principle of separation of politics and religion. It could cause unnecessary confusion," Arai said.

He said religious organizations could be regulated under the current legislation if necessary, pointing out that giving the education minister the sole jurisdiction over religious groups operating nationwide could just make administration over religious groups complicated.

The bill already passed through the powerful House of Representatives last month, and it appears certain that it will pass through the upper house as the coalition — the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — enjoys a majority.

The upper house panel is scheduled to summon three others for unsworn testimony in the afternoon, including Soka Gakkai Chairman Eisaku Akiya, who is expected to run into a volley of questions from the ruling coalition over Soka Gakkai's political activities.

Akiya's summoning is the result of a compromise between the ruling coalition and Shinshinto last week not to force Soka Gakkai honorary chairman Daisaku Ikeda, the group's de facto No. 1 man, to appear before the panel.

Arai accused the coalition of trying to force Ikeda to appear before the Diet. He said, "due attention must be paid to the severe mental effects on religious followers if a person who is a spiritual leader for his followers is forced to appear before the Diet."

Solo Launch of 'Liberal' Party in Preparation

OW0312040995 Tokyo KYODO in English
0342 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO — The secretary general of the ruling coalition's Social Democratic Party (SDP), Waaru Kubo, said Sunday [3 December] the SDP will launch a new "liberal" party even without the participation of politicians from other parties or independents.

The SDP cannot wait for a possible merger with another party but must push ahead with creating a new political force, he added.

"Nothing will proceed unless the party disbands itself and tries to bring about a new era (in Japan)," Kubo said in a program of fuji television network.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's SDP decided to disband itself and launch a new party Jan. 19, marshaling liberal and democratic political forces.

The new party is intended to create a third force in Japanese politics to counter the two major conservative parties — the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest component in the tripartite ruling coalition, and the main opposition shinshinto (new frontier party).

Yukio Hatoyama, secretary general of new party sakigake [Harbinger], the smallest force in the ruling coalition, said in the same program that a new party only comprised of members from the former SDP would not lead to the marshaling of new political forces.

Hatoyama also said his party will not participate in a conference on the launch of a new party, as proposed by Murayama.

Hashimoto's Chances of Becoming Premier Viewed

OW0212130695 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 1 Dec 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Ryutaro Hashimoto (deputy prime minister and international trade and industry minister), president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], stressed his intention to seek the office of prime minister at a ceremony marking the party's 40th anniversary on 30 November. He had to indicate such an intention because there is growing dissatisfaction within the party with the current situation in which Hashimoto fails to clearly indicate the LDP's uniqueness and his own stance, while there are signs of the Murayama government remaining in power for a long time. Some party members claim: "To strengthen his foothold within the party, Hashimoto should first resign as international trade and industry minister so that he can concentrate on party affairs." Nevertheless, because the birth of "Prime Minister Hashimoto" is unlikely unless Murayama hands over premiership to Hashimoto, prospects for the inauguration of the LDP-led government are still dim.

Hashimoto's remarks on 30 November brought out the reality that Hashimoto's becoming the prime minister is premised on the maintenance of the three party coalition and Murayama's transfer of power. In this connection, a cool view has been expressed that "Hashimoto's remarks merely reflect his desire to have power transferred" (according to a senior member of the former Miyazawa faction).

Hashimoto is prone to giving priority to his work as the trade minister, thus failing to devote himself to managing party affairs. Such a tendency has caused dissatisfaction among veteran LDP members who supported Hashimoto in the presidential election.

A veteran member who took the lead in calling for Hashimoto's resignation as the trade minister is Seiroku Kajiyama, former secretary general of the LDP. At a session of the "group to contemplate Japan's course" — for which he serves as chairman — held on 29 November, Kajiyama stressed that "Hashimoto should concentrate on party affairs," and he directly conveyed his view to Hashimoto after the meeting.

However, even among those close to Kajiyama, some express cautious views saying "if Hashimoto leaves the cabinet, the possibility of Murayama's transferring power would decrease."

Although Hashimoto so far rules out his possible resignation as trade minister, he faces difficulties in coming up with effective measures to gain power. But the situation may require Hashimoto to make a tough decision.

North Korea

U.S. Military Policy in Asia Denounced

SK0112091995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0905 GMT 1 Dec 95

["Anachronistic Asia Policy of the U.S." — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 1 (KCNA) — Though the Cold War has been terminated, the United States and Japan are trying to launch another round of the Cold War, while tightening their dangerous military tieup based on the bilateral relations of security alliance.

Recently, they began to work out a "joint document" to "re-define" the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. The U.S. demands the continuous presence of its 100,000 troops in Northeast Asia, which is a legacy of the world war, persistently urging Japan to have the "joint document" stipulating that the military presence is "necessary to cope with the existing threat by North Korea.

We take a serious view of the fact that the U.S. is strengthening military tieup with Japan under the pretext of "North Korea's threat."

What matters is why the U.S., which is talking about the end of the Cold War, is giving "re-definition" to the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, which is a product of the Cold War, and is raising outcries over "North Korea's threat" again, at a time when DPRK-U.S. discussions concerning the nuclear issue are under way.

By doing so, the U.S. pursues an ulterior purpose of attaining military supremacy in Northeast Asia by availing itself of the alleged "threat by North Korea."

In the period of the Cold War, the U.S. had said its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region was necessary to "deter the Soviet Union from southward invasion."

As the Cold War has come to an end, however, the pretext has no longer had a raison d'etre.

So, the U.S. has badly needed a new pretext for framing "security alliance" with Japan. And the allegation of "North Korea's threat" is needed to make the Japanese people aware of its necessity.

Another purpose pursued by the U.S. is to inveigle Japan with the allegation into the execution of its military strategy for invading the Korean peninsula and the rest of Northeast Asia.

The U.S., to this end, asked the Japanese Defence Agency in April last year to dispatch minesweepers, "P-3C" anti-submarine patrol plane and other anti-submarine force belonging to the "Maritime Self-Defense Force" under the pretext of "possible mine-laying by North Korea." And it has staged several joint military exercises with the Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" this year.

Japan is a criminal of World War II. But the Japanese bellicose circles are now crying for "exercise of collective defense rights" which is prohibited by the constitution. If they follow the lead of the U.S. in "coping with the contingency" in the Korean peninsula and even in the Taiwan Straits, it will result only in bringing irrevocable holocaust to Japan.

The U.S. must give up the sinister intention to establish the sphere of military domination in the Asia-Pacific region and unconditionally withdraw all its aggression forces from this region. And Japan must not toe the U.S. military strategy.

U.S. 'Policy of Aggression' Said 'Unchanged'

SK0312073695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0716 GMT 3 Dec 95

["Warmanics Should Act With Discretion" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets have recently announced a plan to stage large-scale field manoeuvres next year in place of the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres.

Papers here today say that the puppets' plan to stage a war gamble against North Korea in the wake of their announcement that the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres would be suspended is an unbearable challenge and a provocation to North Korea and a mockery of public opinion at home and abroad.

A NODONG SINMUN news analyst says:

We cannot but take a serious view of the South Korean puppets' plot to deteriorate North-South relations and lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to a dangerous brink of war next year contrary to the desire of the nation for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

The suspension of the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres is aimed at removing nuclear threat from North Korea.

It is of no use to change the signboards of war exercises against the North.

By encouraging the puppets to nuclear war exercises against the North, a replica of the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres, the United States revealed to the eyes of the world that its policy of aggression against the DPRK still remains unchanged.

By persistently taking the road of war provocations against the North, with an unchanged criminal design to do harm to and stifle the fellow countrymen with the backing of outside forces. The Kim Yong-sam group betrays their true colour as a herd of arch traitors and warmaniacs who, indifferent to the destiny of the country and the nation, try to prolong the remaining days of colonial stooges in reward for serving the imperialists, their master, as war servants.

We will never show mercy to the enemies who provoke us, but send a barrage of retaliatory fire on their heads a thousand-fold.

Warmaniacs would be well-advised to act with discretion.

MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary warns that if the South Korean puppets unleash a war, ignoring the repeated warnings of ours, they will face a stern punishment without fail.

Official Criticizes U.S. on Nuclear Accord

BK0412100295 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 4 Dec 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — A senior North Korean official claimed that the United States has not shown any sincerity in implementing the Agreed Framework between the two countries to resolve nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula.

Pyongyang's Senior Researcher at Institute of Disarmament and Preservation Jo Kyong Won [name as published] said the US had not taken any practical steps until now to remove the alleged nuclear threats in the peninsula.

"The implementation of the project for light-water reactors to be supplied by the US is not in progress as scheduled," he said.

Jo Kyong said this in his working paper presented at the international conference on Nuclear Proliferation in Asia: Issues and Challenges here yesterday.

According to the Agreed Framework, the US was to supply light-water reactors to replace North Korea's existing nuclear facilities.

U.S. Newspaper on Bribery in South Korea

*SK0212084995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0825 GMT 2 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — The U.S. newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE November 23 carried an article dealing with the bribery rife in South Korea.

The article pointed out that bribery has become an immutable practice in South Korea in the past scores of years and decayed South Korean society.

It said the "army generals" during the military "government" openly received bribes from businessmen under the name of political funds.

The article said Pak Chong-Hui and Chon Tu-hwan, in particular, had issued "certificates of donation" to bribe-offering businessmen, as a means of forcing bribery.

It noted that No Tae-u treated the businessmen who did not offer bribes as if they were "traitors" and persecuted them by refusing to give them project plans or credit loans.

Commentary on U.S.-Japan Joint Naval Exercise

*SK0212120195 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0853 GMT 2 Dec 95*

[Commentary from 2 December NODONG SINMUN: "The Root of Evil Should Be Eliminated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A U.S.-Japan joint naval exercise was conducted recently. Participating in the exercise were the U.S. Navy, including the carrier Independence; numerous ships and military aircraft of the Maritime Self-Defense Force of Japan; and tens of thousands of military personnel.

Under the pretext of coping with the instability on the Korean peninsula, the exercise was conducted with the basic objective of blocking someone's maritime transport.

At nearly the same time, Nye, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, openly raved that the objective of the U.S. troops in Japan is to cope with the North Korean military threat.

From this, we learn two points. One is that the United States is taking more concrete steps as regards war provocation maneuvers to crush us. The other is that the United States is attempting to justify the presence of the U.S. forces in Japan under the pretext of someone's military threat.

The bellicose forces of the United States and Japan have conducted a number of joint military exercises to date. However, as noted by KYODO of Japan, this is the first time the United States and Japan mobilized large naval forces and conducted a joint military naval blockade exercise, envisaging a specific situation in case of a contingency on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. objective in this exercise was to involve Japan more closely in its policy to crush us, and the Japanese objective is to realize its wild ambition of reinvasion in line with the United State's Korea strategy.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN on 5 September [as heard] reported that the United States requested that Japan prepare a support system in case of a contingency on the Korean peninsula, with Japan responding positively. ASAHI SHIMBUN on 26 November stated the United States requested that Japan dispatch its Maritime Self-Defense Force in case of a contingency on the Korean peninsula, and that the Japan Self-Defense Agency prepare to contribute by providing the U.S. forces with information and logistical support.

Thus, the military collusion between the United States and Japan is accelerated on a practical stage to conduct aggression against our Republic. In other words, the United States is attempting to make Japanese participation in a new Korean war an established fact by expanding the scope of U.S.-DPRK hostile relations to Japan.

In the post-war era, the United States attempted to justify the stationing of the U.S. troops in Japan under the pretext of preventing Japan from militarizing. However, the falsity and deceitfulness of this has now been thoroughly exposed. As Nye raved, the U.S. Forces in Japan are thoroughly aimed at attacking us. In fact, U.S. defense-related officials are openly stating, whenever the situation on the Korean peninsula is strained, that they are taking measures for it, fully utilizing the advantages of the U.S. Marines and Air Force based on Okinawa.

The U.S.-Japanese military collusion and the U.S. Forces stationed in Japan present a very great danger. The DPRK-U.S. relations of hostilities have not ceased. On the contrary, they are aggravated with each passing day. Moreover, these relations are being expanded to Japan by the United States.

Under this situation, if the United States provokes a new war in Korea, not only Japan but the entire Asia-Pacific region could be engulfed in the calamity. U.S. and Japanese bellicose circles dare to ignore this.

The instability, the aggravation of tensions, and the root of evil of war in the Asia-Pacific region are the U.S.-Japanese military collusion and the U.S. Forces stationed in this region. For peace and stability, the root of evil must be eliminated without delay.

Unless the United States renounces its old policy of aggression and war, it will meet with stronger denunciations and rejection as the enemy of peace and the destroyer of stability. This will not be beneficial to the United States, either. The Japanese bellicose circles are trying to attain their sinister purpose in line with the U.S. Cold War policy, and are joining in a second Korean war scenario, ignoring the aspirations of the peace-loving people of Japan. They must stop their reckless action.

U.S., Japan 'Military Collusion' Denounced

SK0412062595 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and Japan recently began to work out a joint document to redefine the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. Here, the United States demands the continuous presence of its 100,000 troops in Northeast Asia, which is a legacy of the Cold-War era, tenaciously urging Japan to have the joint document stipulate that the military presence is necessary to cope with the existing threat by North Korea.

The U.S. attempt to include the phrase of our nonexistent threat in the U.S.-Japan joint document is similar to the fact that Hitler who had attempted to trigger World War II, dreaming to dominate the world, deployed large-scale troops along the Soviet Union border, while advertising that it was a step to cope with a threat from the East.

We cannot but pay deep attention to and take a serious view of the fact that the United States is strengthening military collusion with Japan under the pretext of someone's threat.

The United States is attempting to station its troops in the Asia-Pacific region perpetually by using the political lever of the relations of security alliance with Japan and, thus, to grasp military domination in this region. Herein lies one of the U.S. purposes to stipulate the phrase of North Korea's threat in the redefined U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

Another purpose pursued by the United States is to inveigle Japan into the execution of its military strategy under the pretext of a threat by North Korea and, thus, to make Japan an accomplice for invading the Korean peninsula and the rest of Northeast Asia.

If Japan's bellicose elements throw themselves into the exercise of collective self-defense rights which are banned even in their Constitution and follow the United States, going so far as to talk about not only an emergency of the Korean peninsula, but also an emergency in the Taiwan Straits, this will become only a reckless act of imposing an irrecoverable disaster on Japan.

Japan's bellicose elements must clearly know this.

Facts show that the U.S. attempt to crush our Republic by force and to dominate the Asia-Pacific region is invariable and that the basic factor of creating military tensions in this region lies precisely in the military collusion between the United States and Japan.

The United States should renounce its sinister intention to establish the sphere of military domination in the Asia-Pacific region and unconditionally withdraw all its aggression forces deployed in this region. And Japan should not follow the U.S. military strategy.

Document on Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty Cited

SK0412115995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 4 (KCNA) — A document says that the "Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty" was forced to be concluded under martial law state in which a large number of Japanese troops were mobilized.

This document has been recently brought to light in Japan, according to a report.

It denies the Japanese Government's assertion that the treaty was signed on an "equal footing" and by "free will."

Reporting the news, a recent issue of the Japanese paper AKAHATA said that the fact is documented by the book "Full Story of Japan-Korea Annexation" written in August 1911 by Kenjiro Yoshita, who was involved in the signing of the treaty as a staff officer of the then Second Division Command.

The paper said that 2,626 Japanese troops and 309 military horses were concentrated in Seoul for forcing Korea to sign the "treaty" in those days. Many Armed Forces were mobilized to "guard" the signing ceremony and were put in readiness for punitive and guarding operations, it noted.

The author, referring to the involvement of the cavalry, said in the book that "strength was needed for annexation" and that "more dignified cavalry than infantry was needed for handling uncivilized people." His arrogant words fully show the viewpoint of the imperialist aggressors looking down on the Korean people, the paper stated.

Quoting the book, it noted that the Japanese Army ran wild in creating a terror-ridden atmosphere to force the signing of the "treaty," staging a "threatening demonstration" of warships.

Pomminnyon Overseas Delegation Entertained

SK0312102595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0707 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA) — The North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) gave a reception in honor of Yim Chang-yong, chairman of the Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon, and his party on the evening of December 2.

Addressing the reception, Paek In-chun, chairman of the North Side Headquarters of Pomminnyon, said that Yim Chang-yong's visit to the homeland is a great encouragement to them who are working hard to accelerate national reunification and strengthen and develop the movement of Pomminnyon.

He further said:

Yim Chang-yong, who has long worked for reunification with firm patriotism, has assumed the important post as chairman of the Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon, which is an expression of deep trust and expectation of the overseas reunification activists with whom he has fought, going through difficulties, and broad segments of the compatriots who are aspiring after reunification.

The prevailing situation calls for the frustration of anti-reunification schemings of splittists at home and abroad, unity of the whole nation and more brisk reunification movement.

He expressed the firm conviction that the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon will firmly unite broad segments of the compatriots under the banner of great unity and powerfully encourage them to the reunification movement in conformity with the requirements of the fast-changing situation.

In his reply Yim Chang-yong said his current visit to Pyongyang was to visit Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the great President Kim Il-song, whom he has all along revered, is preserved in state, and pay homage to him as well as to express consolation to respected General Kim Chong-il.

He went on to say that the great President Kim Il-song was the heaven and the sun of the Korean nation and that the unexpected death of the president, whom the Korean nation had acclaimed as their leader for the first time in its history, is the greatest loss and pain for all the members of the Korean nation.

He stressed that to accomplish the cause of national reunification with the great unity of the nation is the behest of the great President Kim Il-song and the firm will of respected general Kim Chong-il.

He vowed to devote the remaining years of his life to the patriotic cause of Pomminnyon for national reunification.

North Side of Pomminnyon Presidium Holds Meeting

SK0212105595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — The North Side Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) called an emergency meeting of its Presidium on December 2 concerning the detainment of members of the South Side Headquarters of Pomminnyon by the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique.

Present there were Chairman Paek In-chun and other members of the Presidium.

The participants bitterly denounced the detainment of Chairman Kang Hui-nam, Vice-Chairman Chon Chang-il and other members of the South Side Headquarters of Pomminnyon by the Kim Yong-sam group, branding it as a provocation against Pomminnyon, an allied body of the reunification movement common to the nation, and as an attempt to extricate themselves from their predicament caused by the "secret fund case".

The meeting warned that if the Kim Yong-sam group finally persecute them and outlaw the South Side Headquarters of Pomminnyon, it will certainly face the stern judgement by the whole nation.

It discussed how to struggle for the release of all the imprisoned members through a joint action with the South Side and Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon and all other regional organisations and adopted a statement denouncing the repressive acts of the South Korean fascist clique.

The statement urged that the Kim Yong-sam group immediately abolish the anti-reunification "National Security Law" now in force in South Korea and unconditionally and promptly release those imprisoned persons related to the South Side Headquarters of Pomminnyon.

It called upon all reunification-oriented organisations at home and abroad to turn out in the struggle for the release of those detainees and pro-reunification, patriotic-minded figures.

It also called upon the peace-loving peoples, progressive international organisations and groupings in the world to extend full support and solidarity to the Korean people in their struggle to legalize Pomminnyon and its patriotic movement in South Korea and achieve the reunification of the country.

Release of ROK Pomminnyon Members Urged

SK0312074595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0711 GMT 3 Dec 95

["Unconditional Release of Members of Pomminnyon South Side Headquarters Demanded" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam fascist clique arrested 29 members of the South side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon).

NODONG SINMUN Sunday says this as an unpardonable criminal act of throwing a wet blanket over the desire of the nation for reunification and a vicious challenge to us who are involved in Pomminnyon, a reunification movement organisation common to the nation.

The analyst says:

The fascist act of handcuffing pro-reunification patriots who have taken the lead in the struggle for national reconciliation, unity and reunification is a crime that can be committed only by the Kim Yong-sam group, a herd of traitors, fascist hooligans and anti-reunification elements, who are clearly indifferent to peace in he country and its peaceful reunification and hell bent on division, confrontation and war.

The harsh suppression of the patriotic forces striving for reunification and democracy by the Kim Yong-sam group that will face a judgement by history, already sentenced to death by the people, is the height of impudence, which reminds us a thief crying "stop thief!"

The traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique should look squarely at the situation, put an immediate halt to the suppression of the patriotic forces for reunification and democracy and unconditionally release all the illegally arrested members of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon.

VNS Denounces Kim Yong-sam 'Trick'

SK0412120995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 4 Dec 95

["Struggle for Punishment of Chief Culprits of Kwangju Massacre Called For" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 4 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the National Democratic Front of South Korea on November 28 released a statement denouncing the traitor Kim Yong-sam for trying to emerge from the catastrophic crisis with such a trick as a decision to enact a special law, according to Radio Voice of National Salvation [VNS] from Seoul.

The statement says that Kim Yong-sam, a dictator, who adopted a decision of "no arraignment" over the crimes of Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u in turning Kwangju into a bloodbath in May 1980 and granted the murderers "special treatment", abruptly decided to enact the May 18 special law, which is an indication of the serious political crisis of the present "civilian"-veiled fascist "government" caused by the current "slush fund case".

It is [word indistinct] on the people that Kim Yong-sam is loudly clamouring about enactment of the special law, ignoring the will of the people and excluding the introduction of a special prosecutor system which is cardinal for the probe into the truth behind the May 18 incident and the punishment of the criminals, it notes, and continues:

The South Koreans should neither harbour an illusion about nor pin their hope to the decision on the enactment of the special law by the "civilian" dictatorship which is hand in glove with the military dictatorship at all, but push ahead with the continual struggle for the punishment of those responsible for the Kwangju massacre.

All the people should turn out in a courageous pro-democracy resistance to ostracise the group of Kim Yong-sam, an unprecedented-in-history dictator, who is defending the crimes of the past and committing crimes outdistancing the military dictatorship by far behind the facade of the flowery "civilian politics".

Our "NDFSK" earnestly calls upon all the people who have risen up in the struggle for the punishment of the principal culprits of the May 18 Kwangju massacre, to conduct sustained, organised, massive, joint solidarity struggle, not a dispersed and sporadic one, so that they may give full play to their undaunted desire, will, courage and stamina in the nationwide resistance to destroy the corrupt colonial fascist system and set up an independent, democratic government.

ROK Plan for 'Field Mobile Training' Denounced

SK0412081795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1223 GMT 2 Dec 95

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "The Road to War Is the Road to Destruction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has already been reported, the South Korean puppets announced on 30 November that they will conduct a large-scale war exercise next year under the pretext of field mobile training to replace the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

That day, the puppet Joint Chiefs of Staff announced its plan to conduct the large-scale field mobile training during the first half of 1996, bluffing that its independent operational capability improved for the past year. The puppet clique also decided to annually conduct a joint exercise of the puppet Army, Navy, and Air Force in east and west coastal areas to increase the efficiency of the so-called field mobile training. This is an undisguised challenge to our people who desire peace and peaceful reunification of the country, an open provocation to us, and a deliberate war maneuver to move toward the road to war of northward invasion.

As everyone knows, nothing is more urgent than peace and peaceful reunification to our people who live in the constant danger of war. Therefore, we are making every sincere effort to prevent the ever-increasing danger of a new war and achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the country. Our peace-loving position is well shown merely by the single fact that we put forward an epochal proposal on replacing the old Armistice Agreement with a peace mechanism between the DPRK and the United States to guarantee durable peace on the Korean peninsula, and have made all possible efforts to realize it.

We have invariably insisted on resolving the issue of national reunification in a peaceful way, and all the people desire peace and reunification. Under these circumstances, there is no reason for the South Korean puppets to conduct the provocative war exercise opposing their counterpart. However, the belligerent Kim Yong-sam group are obsoletely moving toward confrontation with us, while magnifying the scale of their war exercise.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise that the South Korean puppets conducted with outside forces was the largest-scale test nuclear war exercise in history and a preliminary war aimed at a sudden preemptive strike against the northern half of the Republic. The Kim Yong-sam ring's announcement to conduct the large-scale field mobile training to replace the Team Spirit joint military exercise shows that the training is an open war maneuver against us, which is no different from the Team Spirit war exercise in light of its contents and aggressive characteristic although it has another name.

Moreover, what cannot be overlooked is the consequence that would result from the war exercise upon the Korean peninsula. Whenever the Team Spirit joint military exercise was conducted in South Korea, North-South relations were extremely aggravated as the situation was driven to the brink of war and North-South dialogue was suspended. It is not difficult to guess how grave the consequence of the large-scale war exercise equal to the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which is supposed to be conducted in South Korea next year, would have on the development of the situation and on North-South relations. The declaration of the planned large-scale war exercise plainly showed that the dialogue and reunification the Kim Yong-sam ring had talked about were all fake and that they only pursue the ambition to reunify the country by defeating communism.

In fact, the Kim Yong-sam ring mapped out a plan for adventurous war of northward invasion with outside forces and is trying to put it into practice. This is why the puppets are continuously moving toward the war provocation for northward invasion while assuming an attitude of military confrontation with us, despite the strong denunciation from the people of the world.

However, the puppet clique is making a quite wrong assumption. The Kim Yong-sam clique's intention to do something against us with military adventure is as foolish as an attempt to break a stone with an egg. The road to war is the road of crime, the road of treachery, and the road to destruction. It is clearly proved by the fate of warmongers, who provoked World War II while dreaming of dominating the world, but faced a piteous end. Being clearly aware that the war maneuver of northward invasion will hasten their ruin, the Kim Yong-sam ring should not recklessly run wild and should immediately withdraw the plan for an adventurous war exercise.

ROK Conducts 'Aerial Military Exercise'

SK0212033195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0302 GMT 2 Dec 95

["Military Exercises of South Korean Puppets" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets staged an aerial military exercise for a surprise, forestalling attack on the major targets in the depth area of the northern half of Korea with some 300 fighter planes on November 30, according to military sources.

On the same day 105 mm artillery groups of the puppet army fired about 450 shells at the areas adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone of the Military Demarcation Line and puppet army soldiers in an area adjacent to the DMZ fired more than 1,200 bullets at random with 12.7 mm machine guns and automatic rifles, getting on our nerves.

ROK's 'Large-Scale War Exercises' Criticized

SK0212034595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0336 GMT 2 Dec 95

["South Korean Puppets Announce Plan for War Exercises" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets announced on November 30 that they would launch large-scale war exercises under the cloak of field manoeuvres next year to replace the Team Spirit joint military exercises, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The puppet joint chiefs of Staff made public its plan to stage the manoeuvres in the first half of next year, blaring that the independent operational capacity of the Army was improved in the past one year.

The puppet clique decided to stage annual joint exercises of the puppet army, navy and air force in east and west coastal areas in a bid to increase the efficiency of the field manoeuvres.

This, an open challenge to our people, who want peace and peaceful reunification of the country, shows that the puppet clique are persistently taking the road of war against the North with the posture of military confrontation with us.

The Kim Yong-sam group should squarely look at the trend of the times and should not misjudge our patience as weakness.

Their reckless act will invite a severe punishment.

Seoul Radio Cited on Sentencing of Pak Yong-kil

SK0212041895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0341 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — The South Korean fascist clique on December 1 passed sentences of a two-year jail, a three-year stay of execution and a two-year suspension of qualification on Presbyter Pak Yong-kil, chairperson of the 70 million Korean people's meeting for embracing national unification, co-chairperson of the family movement for realising democracy and widow of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, according to a radio report from Seoul.

She had visited Pyongyang to pay respects to the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The fascist clique detained her on charges of violating the notorious "National Security Law" and inflicted all kinds of inhuman persecution and suppression upon the 70-odd-year-old woman who was in a critical condition owing to her heart disease.

This action of the Kim Yong-sam "civilian" fascist clique is a frontal challenge to the unanimous demand of all the Koreans in the north, the South and overseas and the world public for the immediate release of Pak Yong-kil, a "grandmother of reunification". The clique will certainly face a strong denunciation and punishment by the whole nation.

Daily on Kim Yong-sam 'Campus Violence' Order

SK0212043495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 2 Dec 95

["Repressive Order of Villainous Dictator" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — A few days ago, the traitor Kim Yong-sam ordered his high-ranking underlings including the puppet minister of home affairs to "root out" the righteous movement of students for independence, democracy and reunification, branding this as "campus violence".

NODONG SINMUN today says that this is a prelude to a new suppressive offensive against campuses.

The news analyst says:

The traitor Kim Yong-sam's repressive order was motivated by the sinister design to divert elsewhere the sharp edge of the wrath of the people directed against it after the "secret fund" of the traitor No Tae-u was brought to light and bridge over the crisis of the government driven into a dilemma.

Outwardly, the Kim Yong-sam group is loudly advertising that it would punish the criminals concerned by making a special law on the May 18 incident enacted. However, inwardly, it ordered the military crackdown upon the students who are calling for the punishment of those responsible for the Kwangju massacre. This double-dealing act proves that the group is scheming to retaliate on the South Korean people and students who are calling for the probe into the truth behind the Kwangju incident, the punishment of the murderers and the opening to the public of the "presidential election" fund.

It is all the clearer that the traitor Kim Yong-sam resort to the bestial bayonet-brandishing against the students and people in an attempt to find a way out of the catastrophic crisis. However, fascist suppression is not almighty and it will only precipitate the destruction of the puppets.

ROK 'Displaying Extreme War Hysterics'

SK0212105195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0823 GMT 2 Dec 95

["Military Provocation Leads to Self-Destruction" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets are displaying extreme war hysterics, taking issue with the North groundlessly.

According to a report, the puppet Joint Chiefs of the Staff announced on November 30 that they will hold large-scale field manoeuvres in the first half of next year to replace the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Earlier, on the 28th, the puppet administration held a "meeting of ministers concerned with unification", at which they "decided to further heighten vigilance against the North and increase security posture". That day Yi Yang-ho, puppet minister of national defense, in a "letter" to the bosses of the puppet army said that the "perfect posture of the army should be maintained", vociferating about the possibility of "North's provocation against the South" and thus whipped up a fever of war.

This is a vicious challenge to the desire of the 70 million fellow countrymen for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification and an undisguised revelation of criminal attempt to drive the inter-Korean relations to a phase of total confrontation.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam recently let the bosses of the puppet administration and army extremely instill the consciousness of confrontation into the South Korean people and, at the same time, created a horrible war atmosphere within the puppet army. This is aimed at bridging over the crisis of the "civilian regime" facing total destruction.

Now the Kim Yong-sam group has become a target of people's hatred, grudge and overthrow with its criminal involvement in the slush fund scandal of No Tae-u brought to light. And the "civilian regime" is ridiculed and denounced and rejected by the world people as a "most corrupt political dump" and a "den of crimes".

Factors leading the traitor Kim Yong-sam to destruction are also found within the puppet army.

That is why the Kim Yong-sam group needed a smear about the "possibility of the North's provocation against the South" in a bid to divert elsewhere the attention of the South Korean people and calm down the anti-Kim Yong-sam resentment growing rapidly within the puppet army. Another aim of the Kim Yong-sam group in the smear campaign is to justify their war manoeuvres against the North and ignite a war against the North at any cost.

The historical lesson shows that whenever the fascist tyrants incompetent in politics were driven into an tight corner, they tried to find a way out in war.

The Kim Yong-sam group must act with discretion, clearly seeing that their reckless military provocations will directly lead to their own grave.

'Corrupt Political Ethos' Alleged in ROK

SK0212091495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0903 GMT 2 Dec 95

["Corrupt Political Ethos in S. Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA) — People around the world call South Korea "den of crimes and intrigues" and "kingdom of burglary and bribery" for the dictators' power abuses and illicit fortune-piling, bribery and political intrigues of corrupt politicians, businessmen and civil servants.

No Tae-u's slush fund scandal, an unprecedented disgrace in the world history of politics, is a graphic example of illicit fortune-piling of authorities. This shows the true picture of South Korean politics, a complex of power abuses, intrigues and money.

No Tae-u's "secret funds" amounting to 2,000 billion won made their way into the hands of the ruling camp as well as the opposition camp and even political rivals and turned South Korea's political circles into a large pond of corruption, where ruling and opposition conservatives are fighting a dog's fight without precedent in history.

No Tae-u's slush fund scandal and the ensuing ruling-opposition feud are an inevitable outcome of the corrupt political ethos of South Korea.

This is the true picture of South Korea under the "liberal democratic system," which Kim Yong-sam describes as the "most ideal."

The successive dictators of South Korea including Syngman Rhee, Pak Chong-Hui, Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u extorted the people and committed irregularities while advertising "liberal democracy." The "civilian" dictator Kim Yong-sam talked loudest about "liberal democracy" and hoarded money in a most illegal way.

As the South Korean public say, it is Kim Yong-sam who provided No Tae-u with a source of illicit money-making and received a colossal amount of money in return for his help to No's fortune-piling.

In 1987 when the "Sixth Republic" emerged, Kim Yong-sam broke the unified candidacy of the opposition camp as he had agreed with the military dictators in the back room. This helped No Tae-u to win in the "election." As a result, No Tae-u became "president" with a 36 percent vote. Kim Yong-sam received 30 billion won of "reward."

In 1990, when No Tae-u allured him with a huge sum of money and next-term "presidential candidate," Kim Yong-sam merged with the military dictatorship, saying that "there is no one to overthrow and no need to fight any longer."

In this way, No Tae-u turned the minority status of the ruling party in parliament into a majority status. So, he could save the situation and hoard much more money. At that time, Kim Yong-sam received 100 billion won in return for the "merger of parties."

It is an open secret that Kim Yong-sam received 500 billion won from No at the time of the 1992 "presidential election" and 200 billion won in return for his promise to guarantee No's safety after "retirement."

It is only too natural that the South Korean people brand Kim Yong-sam as a "more crafty and heinous burglar than No Tae-u."

As the people's criticism is directed against "Chong-wadae [presidential offices]," Kim Yong-sam is making a fuss by "detaining" No Tae-u in a comfortable room, renaming the "Democratic Liberal Party" and deciding to enact a "special law on the may 18 incident." With this trick can he never cheat the people.

The corrupt political ethos of South Korea cannot change even if the "democratic liberal party" is renamed.

The measure to "enact a special law on the may 18 incident" is a ruse to divert the people's attention elsewhere from the slush fund scandal.

Although he Kim Yong-sam group decided to enact the "special law" in face of the strong protests of the people, they doggedly refuse to introduce a "special prosecutor system" in an effort to save the chief culprits of the Kwangju massacre.

The slush fund scandal proves that "fair election" and "democracy" chanted by Kim Yong-sam are a lie and can never be realised under the colonial fascist system and that the United States is to blame first of all as it has established dictatorial "governments" in South Korea and supported corrupt dictators in every way.

The United States has been occupying South Korea for 50 years, fabricated and patronised most fascist and treacherous "governments" and encouraged the corrupt political ethos in South Korea.

The United States must feel ashamed of having been an "ally" and "friend" of the dictators who have turned South Korea into a fourth-rate politically backward zone in the world and a den of corruption.

Historical judgement is always stern.

The people will severely punish Kim Yong-sam, the mastermind of unprecedented irregularities.

Hwang Chang-yop's WPK Delegation Visits France

SK0212144495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, visited France on 20-24 November.

On 21 November, the delegation met and talked with (Rene Reneau), chairman of the group for studying French-DPRK economic and cultural issues, and (Michelle Alongkle), the vice chairman of the group. On this occasion, the chairman stated that France acknowledges the DPRK's firm will to defend its national sovereignty and achieve the reunification of the country, and wishes the Republic will bring about achievements in its endeavor toward that end.

Referring to his impression of the DPRK during his visit, the vice chairman said the group for studying French-DPRK economic and cultural issues, which had been formed in the French Senate, will positively conduct activities to promote friendship and understanding between the two countries.

Also that day, the delegation met and talked with the chairman of the European Business League and the vice chairman of the Association for Promoting Relations Between Europe and the DPRK.

On 22 November, the delegation talked with (George Haz), member of the National Committee of the French Communist Party and deputy speaker of the National Assembly. The deputy speaker said he was pleased with the fact that the WPK stood firmly on the frontline of socialism and brought about major achievements in the struggle against the powerful U.S. imperialists. He added that he sincerely wishes the WPK would be strengthened and that the socialism of the DPRK would prosper. He also said the French Communist Party and the WPK would continuously wage the struggle for their common cause, doing so hand in hand.

That day, the delegation visited the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea.

On 23 November, the delegation visited the Fifth University of Paris and held a roundtable talk with school figures.

The delegation left Paris on 24 November.

Libyan Congress Official Meets WPK Delegation

SK0212134695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] (Saad Mujbir), the secretary in charge of external relations within the General People's Congress of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, talked with a Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation on 22 November. On this occasion, he expressed his boundless respect and admiration for the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, and stated that he again expresses his deep condolences over the death of the great leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song.

He went on to say: Throughout his life, his excellency President Kim Il-song devoted himself to the happiness of mankind. His excellency President Kim Il-song brought about immortal achievements along this great road. Therefore, he lives eternally in the hearts of mankind. Upon seeing the funeral service for President Kim Il-song, the Libyan people realized how highly the DPRK people respected him and how strongly they were united around him.

Upon seeing the funeral service for President Kim Il-song, the American bastards [miguk nomdurun] must have been scared. His excellency President Kim Il-song, the great man of the world and the outstanding leader [suryong] of the cause of anti-imperialism and independence, was, is, and will be with progressive mankind. His great achievements will be a banner that encourages the people of the world who are fighting against imperialism and for independence.

We are greatly encouraged by the fact that in hearty response to his excellency President Kim Il-song's lofty will, the WPK and DPRK people are united around His Excellency Kim Chong-il. No enemy can conquer an ideologically and volitionally united people. People of Libya and the DPRK, who are resolutely struggling to oppose the U.S. imperialists and to defend the socialist cause, will unchangingly walk hand in hand. Libya will unchangingly and resolutely support and encourage the struggle by the WPK and the people of the DPRK for the socialist cause and the reunification of the country. We firmly believe that the cause of his excellency President Kim Il-song will be inherited and excellently completed under the wise leadership of the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

WPK Intrinsic Nature, Main Characteristic Noted

SK0412042595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0256 GMT 4 Dec 95

["NODONG SINMUN on Intrinsic Nature of Great Comrade Kim Il-song's Party" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 4 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his famous work "The Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Is the Party of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song" has expounded that it is the intrinsic nature of the party of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to make itself a harmonious whole with the popular masses.

NODONG SINMUN in a signed article Sunday says that the harmonious whole of the party and the people, the relations of kinship between the party and the people — the party believes in the people and the people absolutely trust and follow the party with loyalty — is the intrinsic nature and main characteristic of the Workers' Party of Korea which shines with the august name of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The article further says:

Korea has witnessed the harmonious whole of the party and the people first of all because the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Kim Chong-il built the WPK into a genuine mass party of the working masses.

By correctly reflecting the fundamental interests of the working class and other toiling masses, as well as the demand of the era of independence, and proceeding from the specific situation in our country, Comrade Kim Il-song set the line of building a mass party of the working people comprising workers, peasants and working intellectuals, and put this line into effect with success. The flag of our party, inscribed with a hammer, sickle and writing brush, is a graphic symbol of a revolutionary party in the era of independence, the first of its kind in history. It is the banner of unity and victory of the popular masses, who are independently shaping their destiny.

Another key to the firm harmonious whole of the party and the popular masses in Korea is that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Kim Chong-il led the WPK wisely to discharge with credit its mission and duty befitting the mother party responsible for the destinies of the people.

Comrade Kim Il-song had an indefinite affection for our people and solved all problems in reliance upon the popular masses, firmly believing in their strength, wisdom and wonderful qualities.

If one believes in the people and relies on them, one will always emerge victorious; and if one is divorced from them and is forsaken by them, one will always fail—this is the concept of "the people are my god," the motto of Comrade Kim Il-song, and this has become the basic starting-point and supreme principle in all the activities of our party.

Respected General Kim Chong-il has wisely led the WPK to fully embody Comrade Kim Il-song's noble idea of believing in the people as in heaven and his revolutionary method of leadership in all its activities.

The party should become the mother party that leads the popular masses with the responsibility for their destinies. This is the unique principle of the party in its activities laid down by the great General Kim Chong-il.

The WPK has been built into the mother party that looks after the destinies of the people with the sense of responsibility. As a result, policies of love for and trust in the people, benevolent policies administered by Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, have been embodied with success, and the relations between the party and the people have been the relations of kinship between a defender of political integrity and a soldier—the former takes care of the latter's destiny and the latter entrusts its destiny to the former—those between a mother and her children.

Vice President Yi Discusses Three-Year Mourning

OW0412060295 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 2 Dec 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] According to information obtained on 1 December by TOKAI Television Broadcasting Co. (with its head office in Nagoya), its President Takashi Suzuki — currently on a visit to the DPRK (North Korea) — held talks with three key North Korean figures, including Vice President Yi Chong-ok, at Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on the same day.

Touching on the issue on the successor to President Kim Il-song who passed away in July 1994, Vice President Yi stated: "As far as the Korean people are concerned, it is our custom that the eldest son will neither be present at any formal occasions nor do anything ostentatious for three years following the death of the head of the household. It is our people's wish that the post of the state president and general secretary will be promptly assumed (by Secretary Kim Chong-il, President Kim's eldest son). However, in following this custom, Secretary Kim has insisted on rejecting assuming the post."

These remarks can be taken as stressing that Secretary Kim Chong- il has put off assuming the post as the supreme leader because of his own will to observe the traditional three-year mourning, thereby denying the rumors concerning Secretary Kim's ill health or concerning the weakening base of his power. However, all the more attention is centered on these remarks because the remarks were made by Vice President Yi, one of the top leadership.

Article Explains New Finance Law

SK0412125595 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Third installment of unattributed article explaining the DPRK Finance Law: "On the DPRK Finance Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chapter Three of the Finance Law stipulates the position and role of the finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations in the socialist financial system as well as the procedures, methods, and principles of financial management by these organs, enterprises, and organizations.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out:

When the financial management work of plants and enterprises is satisfactorily conducted, only then can the nation's overall financial work be advanced correctly.

Chapter Three of the Finance Law stipulates the position and role of the finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations.

The finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations in our country is an important constituent of socialist finances and a basic means ensuring the implementation of the national economic plan.

State finances in a socialist society consist of the state budget and finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations. The state budget is a basic financial plan of the state that regulates the nation's overall housekeeping. The finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations comprehensively reflect the housekeeping of those organs, enterprises, and organizations. In doing this, the finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations work as the basic link of the socialist financial system. This is because organs, enterprises, and organizations are the infrastructural unit of production that directly create gross social products and national income, and are a basic unit that creates and utilizes the nation's financial resources.

The finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations serve as a basic means for ensuring the implementation of the national economic plans of the state because the finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations play an important role in ensuring the funds required for implementing the national economic plan.

Organs, enterprises, and organizations are the units directly executing the state's national economic plan; ensuring and utilizing the funds required for implementing the plans are the basis of the financial work of organs, enterprises, and organizations.

Therefore, the satisfactory implementation of the financial management work of organs, enterprises, and organizations is of great significance in increasing production by constantly improving production and business management activities and by developing the nation's economy, and in overfulfilling the national economic plans by enhancing economic efficiency.

The Finance Law regulates the finances of organs, enterprises, and organizations as an important constituent of socialist finances and as a basic means for ensuring the implementation of the national economic plan. The law expounds how to satisfactorily conduct financial management so as to smoothly ensure the implementation of plans and business management activities. Thanks to the law and regulations, organs, enterprises, and organizations have been able to make correct economic calculations by satisfactorily conducting financial management work and to perform economic management in a scientific and rational manner. Thus, a guarantee has been provided for effecting a turning point in overall business management by conducting housekeeping in a frugal and assiduous manner.

Chapter Three of the Finance Law regulates the procedures, methods, and principles pertaining to financial management by organs, enterprises, and organizations.

The independent profit system is a planned and rational management and operational method of socialist state-run enterprises that enables organs, enterprises, and organizations to make ends meet and to offer benefits to the state while carrying out business management activities with relative independence under centralized guidance by the state.

The reason for managing organs, enterprises, and organizations to be engaged in production and management activities under the independent economic accounting system is because it not only enhances the working people's production zeal by correctly combining the communist character of socialist society with its transitional character, but also enables the organs, enterprises, and organizations to overfulfill the state's plan and constantly develop production by leading them to use raw materials, materials, funds, and labor power in a planned and reasonable manner on the basis of a strict calculation.

The budget system means that the organs without their own income receive funds from the state to use them as their management funds.

Among the funds required in their production and management acitivities, the organs, enterprises, and organizations which are operated under the independent economic accounting system should secure the funds required in their production and management activities from their own incomes. However, the organs which are operated under the budget system should cut the expense funds in their budget.

Correctly establishing the finance plan and implementing the plan by item, by month, and by quarter is an important demand arising in financial management. Only when organs, enterprises, and organizations correctly establish and implement their finance plan can they increase production and assiduously manage their economic activities. Therefore, they should implement the policy on unified and detailed planning without fail and establish an active and dynamic finance plan by mobilizing to the maximum the reserves for increased production and conservation.

Using money funds according to the finance plan and lowering prime costs are an important demand in financial management. Only when we correctly use money funds and lower prime costs can we achieve more production and construction with less funds and thus constantly improve management activities.

The procedures, methods, and principles arising in the management of organs, enterprises, and organizations which are stipulated in the finance law serve as the means to further improve finance management work in conformity with the demands of the Taean work system; conduct production and management activities scientifically and reasonably; lead the finance work of organs, enterprises, and organizations to be carried out thoroughly in conformity with the demands of the party's policy; and more properly implement the state's finance policy.

Besides these, the three chapters of the finance law stipulate the business problems arising in financial management in organs, enterprises, and organizations, including the use of their funds and prize money.

3-Revolution Red Flag Movement Conference Held

SK0412120895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, December 4 (KCNA) — The second conference of forerunners of the three-revolution red flag movement was held with a large attendance in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The conference summed up the achievements and experience gained through the movement and discussed tasks and ways of further developing in depth the movement in conformity with the requirements of the developing realities.

The Workers' Party of Korea has initiated various forms of mass movements in keeping with the demands of the revolution, the revolutionary aspirations of the masses and their preparedness at every stage of the revolutionary development and put spurs to them.

The general ideological mobilisation movement for national building and the anti-illiteracy campaign were mass movements for preventing the harmfulness of all sorts of obsolete ideological survivals of Japanese imperialism upon the desire of the Korean people to build the country immediately after the liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialist colonial rule. The party, state and economic bodies and public organisations and broad segments of the people in cities, rural villages, schools and all other domains and units throughout the country turned out in the building of a new Democratic Korea and more than 2.3 million working people became literate in the heat of the movements.

The working people overfulfilled their national economic plans for 1947 and the industrial output increased by 44 percent in 1948 compared with the previous year, in the flames of mass movements.

The peasants, who turned out in the campaign for increased production of grains, produced 170,000 more tons of grains in 1947 than in 1946 and 600,000 more tons of grains in 1948 than in the previous year.

Brisk mass movements were conducted even during the last fatherland liberation war (1950-1953).

The servicemen, out in the "my heights" movement, the plane-hunter team movement and the snipers team movement, defended the heights 1211 and 351 and other heights with their lives by giving full play to mass heroism and matchless self-sacrificing spirit, shot down more than 1,000 enemy planes and killed and wounded some 17,000 enemy troops in 1952.

After the cease-fire the Chollima Movement and other mass movements were vigorously conducted to push ahead with the socialist revolution and construction. As a result, 120,000 tons of steel was produced by a booming mill with the rated capacity of 60,000 tons, 270,000 tons of pig iron was turned out by a blast furnace with the rated capacity of 190,000 tons, and flats for more than 20,000 families were built with building materials, money and manpower for those for 7,000 families. [sentence as received]

The Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement, the highest form of the communist mass movement now under way, and other mass movement began in the 1970s.

The potentials of the singlehearted unity of the Korean people have further increased and the socialist ideological position has more firmly consolidated through the movements.

The mass movements to push ahead with production and construction have helped toward laying more solid economic foundations so that a 10,000 ton press, 15,000-ton super high-pressure hydraulic press and 18,000 cubic metre oxygen plant which contribute to chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientisation of the national economy have been manufactured with domestic strength and technique. And modern industrial establishments and monumental edifices were built in different parts of the country.

Indeed, Korea has witnessed tremendous changes in political, economic and cultural domains in the heat of the mass movements over the 50 years.

The Korean people will, in the future, too, hold high the red flag of the revolution and more fully demonstrate the potentials of the mass movements under the leadership of the great party.

South Korea

DRPK Deploys Aircraft Close to DMZ

SK0212020995 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Dec 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea has deployed some 80 bombers and fighters at three air fields close to the Demilitarized Zone since Oct. 20, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said yesterday.

The three North Korean air fields are about 30km or 40km north of the border, where IL-28 bombers and MiG-17 and MiG-19 fighters are deployed.

With the advance deployment of the North Korean aircraft, South Korean forces have only six minutes of early warning to prepare for a possible air attack from the North, said Lt. Gen. Kim Tong-sin, director of operations at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

So the surveillance level of the South Korean and U.S. forces has been upgraded from Watchcon 4 in peace time to Watchcon 3, with strengthened reconnaissance activities, Kim said.

He made the points while briefing on North Korea's unusual military move this year at an annual combined defense conference held at the JCS headquarters. The conference was intended to strengthen defense cooperation among the military, government officials and citizens.

President Kim Yong-sam presided over the conference, with the attendance of more than 160 government officials, military commanders and lawmakers on the National Assembly Defense Committee.

Lt. Gen. Kim went on to say that North Korea has increased the number of 170-mm and 240-mm multiple rocket launchers deployed near the border area, which can hit targets in Seoul.

Compared with 1994, North Korea this year has produced 90 more 170-mm and 50 more 240-mm multiple rocket launchers, Kim said.

Kim said Pyongyang continues developing Scud-type Taepodong missiles with the range of more than 1,500 km which can hit targets in Japan and China. North Korea is testing engines for the missiles, he said.

Lt. Gen. Kim stressed the need for the strengthened cooperation among all walks of life in the South against a possible North Korean provocation, given North Korea's unusual military movement. He noted that this year North Korea sent armed infiltrators and armed spies to the South, while making attempts to cripple the 1950 Korean Armistice Agreement in a bid to replace it with a peace pact between Pyongyang and Washington.

Kim Chong-il Relatives Appointed to WPK Posts

SK0112143295 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 1 Dec 95 p 2

[YONHAP report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The number of departments in the Korea Workers Party [WPK] in charge of implementing the party's policies has reportedly been reduced from 22 to 18, along with a partial reshuffle of the directors of those departments. Chang Song-taek, husband of Kim Chong-il's younger sister, who has been considered a powerful figure since Kim Il-song's death, has reportedly been appointed as first deputy director of the Organization and Guidance Department; Kim Kyong-hui, Chang's wife and Kim Chong-il's younger sister, has been appointed as director of the Economic Policy Inspection Committee [kyongje chongchaek komyol pujang].

Chon Tu-hwan Makes Public Statement 2 Dec

SK0212020295 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0000 GMT 2 Dec 95

["Public statement" by former ROK President Chon Tu-hwan in front of his house in Yonhui-tong, Seoul — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear fellow countrymen:

I stand before you with sorrow at having lost faith in the direction in which our country is heading, and in the way it plans to move in that direction.

I believe that you all remember well, that six years ago on 15 December 1989, according to the decision made as a result of a meeting held by the then President No Tae-u, and the three opposition leaders — Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung, Kim Chong-pil — I testified before the National Assembly on 31 December 1989 to bring about an end to the political situation calling for the liquidation of what is known as the Fifth Republic, and thus, I put the finishing touches on this issue of the past.

However, this politically dead issue has recently become an issue once again, thus placing the whole country in extreme confusion and uncertainty. I believe that there will be various opportunities ahead to talk about the right and wrong of the individual incidents which have been brought up once again, so here, I will not talk about these matters in detail.

I will present several remarks from the aspect of social confusion and uncertainty which is certain to reappear again and again, and hope that President Kim who is currently responsible for state affairs, will provide a clear explanation.

On 24 November, President Kim called for the establishment of a special 18 May law to show the people that justice, order, truth, and law are alive in this land, and said that relevant people, such as myself, will be held accountable to this law as the leading conspirator of a rebellion.

As all of us are well aware, the current Kim Yong-sam regime was realized through the merger of three parties — the Democratic Justice Party which was the ruling party of the Fifth Republic, the New Democratic Republican Party centered around the Third Republic's Republican Party, and the opposition's Democratic Party — under the purpose of toleration for all past history. The expression that it was out of a desire for national salvation was even mentioned in conducting the merger.

In my capacity as a former president of the ROK, I participated in President Kim's inauguration ceremony and did not spare encouragement, and when President Kim visited me, I recall that I even gave him advice.

However, now, almost three years after his inauguration, President Kim has suddenly characterized me as the ringleader of a rebellion, completely denying the past history. If I were a criminal who had disturbed the constitutional order of the country, I think President Kim, who was in collusion with the rebellion forces, should also be held responsible.

Next, I want to mention an issue concerning the current regime's ruling ideology. Leftist activists have invariably insisted on denying the legitimacy of the ROK starting with the first President Synghman Rhee's regime to the present government and designated the regimes as targets to be overthrown and removed. However, the present government characterized the Synghman Rhee regime as a pro-Japanese government, and the Third, Fifth, and Sixth Republics as criminal groups stemming from rebellions, thus denying the legitimacy of all previous regimes.

I hope President Kim will clarify his view of history on this occasion to eliminate our people's concerns about the transparency of the present government's ideology.

The next issue I want to mention regards the prosecution's reinvestigation. As the people well know, I did my utmost to answer questions regarding the 12 December, 17 May, and 18 May incidents through the hearings of the 13th National Assembly and a long-run investigation by the prosecution and, based on this, the prosecution concluded its investigation in accordance with legal procedures. However, the current prosecution has reopened the investigation of a settled matter, merely in response to an order issued by the president. The prosecution, for the most part, seems to assume this attitude for political purposes under the current situation, rather than to further reveal the truth of the incidents. Thus, I will not honor the summons by the prosecution and will not cooperate with any other measure.

If the prosecution wants to deal with me judicially, I would like to ask it to proceed based on the submitted materials. Respecting the order of the ROK law, I will accept and follow any measure taken by the judicature.

Finally, please call me, leader of the Fifth Republic, to account for all problems including the 12 December incident. I sincerely hope there will be no political retaliatory action against any other person.

Thank you.

Reaction to Chon Tu-hwan Statement

SK0312084195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of editorials and articles published in ROK vernacular dailies on 2 and 3 December on Chon Tu-hwan's 2 December public statement on the prosecution's investigation of 12 December [1979] and 18 May [1980] incidents.

The moderate MUNHWA ILBO on 2 December carries on page 3 a 800- word editorial entitled "Challenge by Chon Tu-hwan." The editorial notes: "Chon Tu-hwan has the right to fully protect himself not only as an ex-president but as a regular person. However, it was plainly revealed in his short statement that he is utterly ignorant of preconditions for one's self-protection and of common social value." It continues: "It is doubtful that many people will sympathize with Chon's self-protection based on neglecting his 'original crime' of assuming power irrationally and illegally."

The conservative CHOSON ILBO on 3 December carries on page 3 a 1,500-word editorial entitled "Bridge of No Return." Criticizing Chon Tu-hwan for "not uttering a word about the 12 December, 17 May, and 18 May incidents led by him," the editorial says he "should have made a frank confession on the historic scenes" and "should have shown his guilty conscience, even to the slightest extent, to the victims of the 18 May incident and their bereaved families." The editorial notes: "People view today, the 'consequence' of the past, from different viewpoints. However, regarding the 18 May tragedy at least, they all share the opinion that 'Chon made a mistake.' Chon should clearly be aware of this. Without admitting his original crime, his statement cannot be convincing no matter how long it is."

The editorial mentions "we may well call the current situation a 'political war,'" and views the current political situation is represented by "confrontation between the forces that believe the 18 May issue is a closed issue and the forces that believe it is not." The editorial concludes by saying: "President Kim, the forces of the Fifth and Sixth Republics, the two opposition party leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil, and probably dissident forces, too, have crossed a bridge of no return. Under this stormy situation, the innocent people will have to undergo difficulties. It is indeed a dangerous point in time."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO on 3 December carries on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled "Is Chon Not Afraid of the People?" The editorial says "if Chon were afraid of the people" and "considered the people's intent even a little, he would not have made such an insolent, high-handed, and provocative public statement." The editorial continues: "Even if the current regime moves to cover his fault, his act of violating the Constitution and inhumane massacre should finally be tried by the people and history." Meanwhile, the editorial notes the prosecution's "strange reopening of the investigation" and the and the "lightening summons of Chon before the creation of a special law" and says "the government is also responsible for the complications surrounding the 18 May issue, in which Chon made the statement. The editorial particularly notes: The abrupt order to legislate a special law issued by President Kim, who had stressed generosity and forbearance for almost three years since his inauguration and told the people to let history judge the past, was well enough to make Chon defy him and talk about 'political purposes.'" The editorial then stresses: "The political circles and the present government should not discount the issues mentioned by Chon, such as the reversing of the four parties' integration in 1989 and the collusion with the rebellion forces. It is necessary for them to give some sort of explanation to the people." The editorial concludes by urging the government to "liquidate the past in a thorough, reasonable, and legal way, not based on political strategies or tactics to gain popularity, so that it can win the people's sympathy."

CHUNGANG ILBO on 3 December also carries a 900-word article by reporter Kim Tu-u on Chongwadae's (presidential offices) reaction to Chon's statement. The article starts by saying "Chon's resistance seems far beyond the level Chongwadae expected." It quotes Chongwadae spokesman Yun Yo-chun as saying "President Kim Yong-sam did not watch the live TV relay of Chon's statement, nor did he mention it during a tea meeting he had with Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku and Chief Presidential Secretary Han Sung-su after signing a special pardon." The article reports: "President Kim's silence means he recognizes the seriousness of the situation. He does not open his heart over a significant issue." The article continues: "Regarding the questions Chon raised in his statement, Chongwadae turned them down, saying 'they are not worth answering.' Chongwadae even refused to react to Chon's statement until 2 December at noon. However, in the afternoon that day, it characterized Chon's action as 'violence' and stressed the need to take an early measure, saying 'he cannot be left untreated any longer.'"

The article reports "Chongwadae has reconfirmed its policy to proceed with the judicial treatment of Chon Tu-hwan." It quotes President Kim's "close long-standing supporters" as saying "President Kim probably has a plan behind the strong measures such as the arrest of ex-President No Tae-u and the direction to legislate a special law" and as expecting "follow-up measures will be taken soon." With regard to "a corner's concern about the possible economic influence and turmoil in the military," the article quotes an identified high-level Chongwadae official as predicting "the Army will not undergo disorder because the Hanahoe [one mind] Fraternal Society has been removed," and the warning "people should not create an atmosphere in which they denounce the entire Army."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO on 3 December carries on page 3 a 800-word editorial entitled "It Is Urged To Sternly Punish Chon." The editorial stresses: "Chon is now taking aim at the people, who are trying to straighten history, with the arrow of censuring leftist plots, which he used as a means of suppression during the military regime. This is a brazen-faced act to disgrace the people, the sovereigns, and to refuse straightening history." The editorial then says: "It is natural for the prosecution to coercively investigate Chon with a prior arrest warrant issued by the court. We have to let him know that the law is alive."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 7 an 800-word interview with Kang Sam-chae, secretary general of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), by reporter Yim Chae-chong. Kang states: "The correction of history cannot be held back in fear of the sacrifice of the majority or temporary unrest. The civilian government must liquidate the past cleanly so as to not carry on the burden to the next regime." Rejecting Chon's allegation of Kim Yong-sam's collusion with rebellion forces through the three-party merger, Kang explains that Kim Yong-sam's faction was a minority in the post-merger party and was unable to straighten the 12 December and 18 May incidents. He adds: "Ultimately, the punishment of those responsible for the 18 May incident is possible because we have assumed power." Asked about whether Chon should have been summoned after the enactment of the 18 May special law, Kang replies: "There are things that can be done after the enactment, and things to be done irrespective of the special law." Kang reaffirms the DLP's determination to have the 18 May special law passed at the upcoming National Assembly session with or without the support of the opposition parties.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Chon Tu-hwan's Unjustifiable Rejection." The editorial terms it "shocking" that Chon Tu-hwan rejected and challenged the government decision to punish those responsible for the 18 May incident. The editorial states that Chon should understand the background of the decision, reminding him that the current government wanted the incident to be judged by history, but was forced by the public opinion to liquidate the past. The editorial states that Chon "should not link the decision with political retaliation or leftism." The editorial further explains that the wound of the 18 May incident is too deep to be mended by Chon's exile in the Paektam Temple and the National Assembly hearing during the Sixth Republic. The editorial blames politicians for failing to properly liquidate the Fifth Republic at the National Assembly hearing, and urges Chon Tu-hwan to readily respond to the trial of history if he wants to maintain the minimum remaining dignity as a former president. The editorial concludes by urging the prosecution to proceed with Chon's charges as soon as possible.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page a 1,200-word editorial entitled: "Responding to the Trial of History Would Be a Wise Choice." The editorial deems Chon Tu-hwan's departure for his hometown at the prosecutor's summon as "presumptuous and audacious," and his public statement a "sophism." The editorial also expresses disappointment at the "double-faced reaction" of the opposition parties, quoting the National Congress of New Politics spokesman's remarks that "Although Chon's remarks did not work for the people, he has expressed what he had to say to President Kim." The editorial criticizes that if Chon's leftist theory is acceptable, the opposition party's demand for special prosecutors is also self-contradictory. The editorial asserts that there is no contradiction in the birth of the Kim Yong-sam regime because Kim Yong-sam won the election in competition with Kim Tae-chung, and questions whether there is a story behind Chon being friendly with Kim Tae-chung, who is considered more leftist. The editorial supports President Kim's decision on enacting the 18 May special law, praising it as "a decision made through dialogue with history," and warns Chon Tu-hwan that hampering the state's authority is a betrayal to the nation.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,600-word editorial entitled "The Turning Point in Liquidating the Past." The editorial states that the Fifth Republic figures' resistance to the 18 May special law is expected because the key players still have strong influence. Denouncing Chon Tu-hwan's remarks that he had paid all debts at the Paektam Temple, the editorial reminds Chon of the fact that the exile was not for the coup or massacre but for the irregularities of his family members. The editorial further clarifies that the exile was a political reprisal, not a judicial settlement. Recalling President Kim's previous decision to leave the judgment of the 18 May incident to history, which was considered his limit after the three-party merger agreement, the editorial applauds that President Kim has overcome the limit. Commenting on Chon's leftist allegation, the editorial criticizes it as "an old fascist habit." The editorial states that it is unreasonable to demand the prosecution wait until the enactment of the special law while political chaos is flaring up, and particularly, the liquidation of the past is on the verge of miscarriage by "reactionary" charges. The editorial also demands that the special law be accompanied by special prosecutors in order to derive national consensus. The editorial blames President Kim for the current political disharmony and urges him to make clear who is he fighting against. The editorial also urges the opposition parties to sort out their priorities.

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 6 a 500-word article by reporter Kim Song-kil on the reaction of the Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Chon's public statement. The article reports that some military officials said that "Chon is still not showing remorse for staining the honor of the military," and showed more concern on North Korea's recent ill-boding moves. The article continues to report that other military officials complain that the head-on collision of the current government and Chon is a result of the hasty judicial proceeding placing more emphasis on "political effects" rather than a lesson from the 18 May incident. Military officials admit that some of them have sympathy for Chon's resolute attitude, which is different from No Tae-u's. The article reports that on 2 December, Defense Minister Yi Yang-ho called the leaders of the Special Warfare Command and the 20th Division, which had been involved in suppressing the Kwangju uprising and were recently the focus of the media, and reassured them that the current units have nothing to do with the units' past activities. The article reports that the Army is conducting trainings as scheduled "without particular perturbation."

Arrest Warrant Issued for Former President Chon

SK0212144895 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1427 GMT 2 Dec 95

[Report by Yim Chang-won]

[FBIS Translated Text] An immediate arrest warrant for Chon Tu-hwan was issued around 2322 [1422 GMT].

The immediate arrest warrant for Chon Tu-hwan was issued approximately five hours after it had been requested. It took so much time for the court to issue the arrest warrant because the documents accompanying the request were voluminous. Sin Hung-chol, the duty judge of the Seoul District Court, examined the 30,000-page request for the warrant for five hours.

The investigation headquarters plans to execute the warrant for Chon tomorrow morning. Therefore, Chon, who is now staying in his hometown in Hapchon, will likely be arrested before tomorrow noon. He will be detained at the Anyang Correctional Facility and will questioned by the prosecution.

President Kim Signs General Pardon Bill

SK0212034795 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam signed the general pardon bill passed by the National Assembly earlier this week at his Chongwadae [presidential offices] office Saturday morning.

Expected to benefit about 7 million [as received] ex-convicts, the general pardon will provide an opportunity of "a great national harmony and unity," said the chief executive after signing the bill.

The first of its kind ever granted in 32 years, the amnesty applies to those who have been convicted of 35 minor offenses and to former and incumbent civil servants disciplined for wrongdoings committed in their line of duty.

Burma

Rangoon Turns to Russia in Search of Arms

BK0112074395 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Dec 95 p A11, A13

[Report by Aung Zaw on Gen. Tin U's recent trip to Moscow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a Russian Embassy official in Rangoon, the recent visit to Moscow by Lt. Gen. Tin U, Secretary 2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), was intended to help foster a stronger relationship between the two countries. It was a "good-will familiarization visit, with a relatively broad programme," the London-based FINANCIAL TIMES was told.

But analysts and Western diplomats in Rangoon were quick to suggest that something more was involved. Specifically that Tin U's real mission was to buy arms from Moscow.

Burma is seeking to modernize its Tatmadaw and "... cash-strapped Moscow has become an eager seller of weapons to Asia," the FINANCIAL TIMES reported.

Traditionally China has been Rangoon's major arms supplier.

Since the SLORC seized power in 1988, relations between Rangoon and Beijing have steadily improved. Both countries faced democracy uprisings, in 1988 and 1989 respectively, and both used similarly brutal methods to put them down.

Chinese military officials have been visiting Burma since 1989 and China has became the SLORC's most important ally. In 1990, China started delivering military hardware estimated by Western military observers to be worth about $1.2 billion, which many considered to be a bargain.

Last year Rangoon bought $400 million worth of helicopters, ammunition, field guns, six Hainan Class patrol boats and armored vehicles from China. The new weapons have been used to attack ethnic minorities and warlord Khun Sa in Shan State. Additionally, they have been used to intimidate the population.

Last year Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, as well as other high ranking military officers, visited Burma.

Sino-Burmese relations now seem stronger than ever. A common Burmese saying goes: "Beijing is exporting everything from sewing needles to tanks." Speculation around the region is that Beijing is seeking access to Burmese ports in the Bay of Bengal. But this has been denied by officials from both countries.

But if relations have been so close why has Russia suddenly entered the picture? Have Sino-Burmese ties been strained? Analysts note that Burma is eager to become a member of ASEAN, in part as a way to balance the relationship with Beijing. In July Burma acceded to ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC).

It is believed that some Burmese military officers have complained about the shoddy workmanship of the hardware sold by Beijing.

Moreover, some military officers who were sent to China for military training in recent years have been asked not to return but to stay there.

Another dilemma facing Rangoon is that many civilians, including soldiers, are unhappy with the Chinese presence. Patriotic and nationalist military officers, as well as influential Burmese, have made known their disdain for China's "unofficial invasion."

"Whether privately or openly, the Burmese have not hidden their dislike for the Chinese," a Burmese professor in Rangoon said. In recent years Burma's writers and cartoonists have taken their limited freedom of expression to the limit and ridiculed the Chinese presence and influence in Burmese cities.

So has Burma found a new ally in Russia? Maybe not. But Beijing might not be Rangoon's major arms supplier anymore, analysts said.

Last month, Thailand's Defence Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut visited Beijing and met with several high-ranking Chinese officials. On his return Chawalit told the local press: "We discussed my concern about the arms build-up in this region, especially in our neighbouring country." Though Chawalit did not name what that "neighbouring country" was, he was certainly referring to Burma.

Chawalit said he received an assurance from Beijing that it stop supporting the military build-up in "that country" Burma. "From now on I can assure you that it will stop," he said.

But Beijing is not the only arms supplier to SLORC. Singapore and various European countries have also been selling weapons to Burma. And today the Tatmadaw has more than 300,000 men under arms.

With Beijing's help, Burma's military rulers have been able to transform the Tatmadaw into a "semi-modern" force.

Even though Burma was accorded Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 1987, the junta went on an arms buying spree as early as 1989. The reason given was to maintain "law and order" in the country.

Burma today is still a poor country. But with increasing foreign investment the junta itself is well-to-do. Analysts noted that the present defence spending is higher than during that of the previous socialist regime.

Despite the end of the Cold War and communist insurgencies in Southeast Asia, Burma and its immediate neighbours have kept up huge military budgets.

Burma's military rulers may have been miffed at Chawalit's mention of the arms build-up in Burma since Thailand itself is spending gigantic sums in arms purchases. It has bought F-16 jets and also wants to purchase F-18 jet fighters, M-60 tanks and two submarines which Burma's military rulers cannot afford.

Other ASEAN countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia have also beefed up their defensive capabilities by buying several jet fighters and vessels.

But regional analysts said there won't be any war in the region within the next decade. So why are these countries, including Burma, buying more weapons? They could have different reasons, but analysts believe the purchases are mainly for defensive reasons.

Unlike the old days, when Burma was able to invade Ayutthaya with impunity, the country now faces several problems at home.

The ruling junta has proudly declared its successful ceasefire agreements with several ethnic armed groups. So far 15 out of 16 insurgent groups have returned to the "legal fold." Recently, Burma's deputy tourism minister said Burma is the most peaceful country in Southeast Asia. If that is true, why is the SLORC still buying more weapons?

Is it to be used in fighting warlord Khun Sa or is it to be used as a deterrent to possible uprisings in urban areas? Or is it because the ceasefire with ethnic groups can be broken anytime? Some observers argue that the vagueness of SLORC's ceasefire pacts with the armed groups will not guarantee genuine peace in the country.

This year saw a resumption of hostilities between the Karenni rebels and the SLORC.

Bomb Explosions in Tamu 28 Nov Reported

BK0212092795 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 30 Nov 95

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bomb blast took place in two different places in Tamu (Indo-Burma border town of Burmese side) on 28.11.95 at 5:00 a.m. (India Standard Time).

One was at the TLORC (Township Law and Order Restoration Council) office and the other was at the USDA (Union Solidarity and Development Association) office.

The first explosion took place in front of the USDA office. The second one was found by the army personnel near the office of the TLORC and purposely the soldiers explode the bomb by gun fire.

There were no causalities at the site of explosion. Paper notes were scattered near the blast site.

The contents of the notes are as follow:

(1) To denounce the National Convention held by the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council].

(2) To stop the forced labor, porterage and all activities which trouble to the people.

(3) People in the Sagaing Division need to be united and actively against the SLORC's activities. [sentence as received]

The SLORC considered to this event that it was systematically pre-planned and aimed not to hurt the people, only to show the agitation against the National Convention. Regarding this event the SLORC suspected on Chin activists. The border was banned by the SLORC and the investigation and detention are being done.

Military: No Role for NLD in Constitution

LD0112104995 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma's military rulers say work on drawing up a new constitution will continue despite the expulsion from the constitutional convention of the country's main opposition party. Evan Williams reports from Rangoon that the expulsion means an end to any future role for the National League for Democracy [NLD] in the constitutional process:

[Williams] In line with convention rules, the government has revoked the NLD's 86 delegates because of their absence without leave for two days. That slams the door on Aung San Suu Kyi's call for talks to make the process more open and democratic and seems to officially exclude the main opposition party from any further role in the country's new constitution. It means her efforts to use the convention as a lever to open a dialogue with the army have failed, but also damages the credibility of a new constitution, drawn up without the people's main chosen representatives. The military said its constitutional process will continue without interruptions and the expulsion seems to bar the opposition from any future role. But, as both sides are playing politics, a future compromise cannot be fully ruled out.

Committee Statement Views NLD Walkout

BK0212093195 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 30 Nov 95

[Statement issued by the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma; place not given; dated 30 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Whether Burma will be liberated from the despotic rule of military dictators in our lifetime may well be decided in the coming weeks. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, after her attempts to establish a dialogue were thwarted, has now openly confronted the military regime. Her success is totally dependent upon the active support of the people she represents and the international community.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has selected the time and place to initiate the offensive for democratic rule. By choosing the so-called "National Convention" for the attack, she has exposed the duplicity and total absence of any intent to "transition to democracy" by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). That it has been seriously wounded can be seen from the idiotic blather of the National Convention Commission's press release of 28 November, 1995.

SLORC has described Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's attack as an attempt to:

— "cancel the basic principles laid down by the National Convention.........."

SLORC is correct. Since the NLD [National League for Democracy] received over 80 percent of the votes in the May 1990 elections, the NLD, not SLORC, must "lay down the basic principles" for any convention to draft a new constitution.

— "to recognize with persons they like so as to be able to lay down principles as the party likes;"....

SLORC is basically correct except that the NLD does not want "persons they like" as much as persons who were elected to represent the people.

— "To lay down new methods and procedures to be followed in the National Convention and carry on as they like."

SLORC is absolutely correct. The NLD believes that decisions should be made after discussion, not before; that members of the convention should be able to talk freely among themselves and to speak their own minds, and not to be a mouthpiece for General Ne Win and his henchmen.

— "further disruption of the National Convention...."

Again, SLORC is correct. The National Convention must be disrupted since it is an illegal gathering, for illegal purposes, to seek confirmation for ill-gotten gains.

The NLD, as the elected government of the people (as opposed to the Occupation Forces) has an obligation to take whatever action is necessary to protect them from attempts to make military domination a permanent fixture in our society.

SLORC is now preparing its counter-attack against the NLD. From our experience and current observations, SLORC is making an assumption about our commitment to political reform. SLORC is assuming that, like in the past, when opposition leaders are removed, our people will cower when confronted with physical abuse by the state. They believe that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the struggle for democracy can be separated from the public by torturing several hundred supporters, beating up several thousand demonstrators and posting tens of thousands of soldiers with bayonets in towns and cities throughout the country.

In this critical hour, SLORC must receive a credible notice that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not alone in her struggle and will not be separated from her people or her international supporters. No message can be more powerful than a notice that if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is arrested and confined to her home again, the entire population of Burma will share her confinement by confining themselves to their homes or monasteries and refusing to work. Without the cooperation of the people, SLORC will collapse. The international community should shun SLORC throughout the world, acting in ways to indicate that SLORC does not exist — no invitations to international meetings, no foreign aid, no business contracts, no tourists, removing accreditation to all military officers assigned to foreign embassies, and expelling SLORC from the United Nations.

The farmers, workers and students, the opposition leaders of all organizations, the doctors, lawyers and businessmen, all, must prepare to answer the call to join in this struggle between the forces of freedom and forces of evil. When Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says "I am not afraid," it is clearly evident. When she tells SLORC "I am not alone," it must also be clearly evident.

NDF Supports Boycott of National Convention

BK0212093495 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 1 Dec 95

[Statement issued by the National Democratic Front; place not given; dated 1 December]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Democratic Front (NDF) has issued its statement concerning with the internal peace in Burma in which NDF expressed its firm belief that only the round-table political dialogue way could bring the solution of the current political dilemma in Burma.

In the NLD's [National League for Democracy's] letters dated November 28, 1995 to the Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission, it stated that NLD has decided not to participate in the National Convention as they learnt there was no discussion on the dialogue in the opening speech by the Commission Chairman. This decision shows that NLD is shouldering its responsibility and its firm stand for the sake of the all nationalities and democratic forces in Burma.

In order to find the way of solving the national conflicts that is main cause of the civil war since 1948 and way of solving the human rights and democracy problems in 1988 [as received], NDF strongly believe that dialogue proposed by NLD is the only constructive mean and most suitable way.

Both some of the members of NDF and some other non-member of NDF have signed the cease-fire agreements with Slorc [State Law and Order Restoration Council] somehow. Slorc not only has yet to discuss with the cease-fire groups how to solve the political dilemma but is attempting to reach the surrender agreement by all means.

The decision of the NLD to boycott the Slorc's sham National Convention and call for dialogue to solve the political dilemma clearly expresses the will of the all ceased-fire groups, the groups [that] has not signed cease-fire yet, and the democratic forces both inside and international.

If Slorc ignores the will of Burmese people and continues the holding of National Convention, there will be a bloody turmoil and the country will be in chaos. Slorc will be the only responsible [party] for all the consequence of continuing National Convention. National Democratic Front December 1, 1995.

NCUB Endorses Call for Dialogue With SLORC

BK0212094295 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 1 Dec 95

[Statement issued by the National Council of Union of Burma; place not given; dated 30 Novemeber]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB) issued a position statement dated 24 November 1995, concerning with SLORC's [State Law and Order Restoration Council's] sham national convention reopened on 28 November 1995. Now again hereby NCUB declares its position on the NLD's [National League for Democracy's] decision released on 28 November 1995 to boycott the SLORC's sham national convention.

1. NCUB believes that NLD's decision to boycott the attending at the on-going national convention expresses their firm stance for the sake and will of the all democracy-loving people, ethnic people, cease-fire groups and remaining revolutionary forces.

2. In the paragraph (8) of the declaration of SLORC dated 29 November 1995, SLORC said (Slorc) analyzed that a group of so-called NLD leaders is demanding for dialogue unnecessarily and trying to overwhelm their authority over the government. It is an unrealistic analysis giving an excuse to continue the national convention in accordance with their desire in order to prolong the military dictatorship.

3. NCUB accepts that the call for dialogue by NLD is the most suitable and righteous way to find out the political solution for issues of restoration of democracy, ethnic rights and human rights. All the democratic oppositions, armed revolutionary forces and cease-fire groups are also willing to emerge [for the emergence of] the political dialogue. The United Nations also shows its great will and accepted this dialogue solution.

4. If SLORC is continuously refusing to solve the political problems by dialogue way, the country will be truly engaged in impasse. If it happens, the responsibility will be entirely on SLORC. Thus, we the NCUB strongly demands to SLORC to pave the way for political solution by means of dialogue.

5. NCUB strongly would like to urge the members of NCUB, pro- democracy forces, armed revolutionaries and cease-fire groups to work together for NLD's demand for political dialogue which is in consonant with recent political situation and also request the international community to insert more pressure onto SLORC for entering into the political dialogue. NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNION OF BURMA Date: 30 November 1995

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Canberra Softens Stand Against Malaysia's EAEC

BK0412094395 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 4 Dec 95

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, has indicated that Canberra is softening its stand against the Malaysian-inspired East Asia Economic Caucus [EAEC].

Sen. Evans said Australia does not see the EAEC as such a threat now that APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] is up and running. The Australian foreign minister made the remarks after the inaugural Malaysia-Australia dialogue in Kuala Lumpur. Katherine McGrath reports from the Malaysian capital the talks were established to improve relations between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [McGrath] Over the weekend, 30 academics and government officials from both Australia and Malaysia got together at a resort on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur to trash out some of the problems involved in the Australian-Malaysian relationship. First sensitive [issue] is the concern on the Malaysian side about the way the talks would be reported that the organizers received all requests for interviews. But Foreign Minister Sen. Gareth Evans was happy to offer his view.

[Evans] Our relationship with Malaysia has always been the strongest of any of our relationships we have had with all the Asian countries because of our joint history in the commonwealth, because of the English-language connection, because of our [words indistinct] defense arrangements which stationed Australian military personnel there for so long. But, clearly the relationship in recent years has been through some bumpy patches on the road. There has been a huge amount of economic activity gain through the relationship but also there have been a few obvious bumps.

[McGrath] The biggest problem in recent years followed Paul Keating's description of Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed as recalcitrant for his failure to attend the first APEC summit in Seattle. Now, building the relationship is important to both countries. Over the weekend Sen. Evans indicated that Australia is willing to give some ground in its opposition to the EAEC, the Malaysian idea for a subgroup in which by definition excludes Australia. Just a few months ago when Trade Minister Bob McMullan toured Malaysia he said publicly and often that Australia did not understand the rationale behind the EAEC. Over the weekend, Sen. Evans offered a different interpretation. The foreign minister said the EAEC is an issue that can now be worked through.

[Evans] The worry we had originally about the EAEC was that it was so potentially divisive at a time when APEC was still finding its feet. Now that APEC is a thoroughly going concern with such a great [words indistinct] so much commitment including from the Malaysians. No matter how much we might want to occasionally make up some antipoint about the extent of the voluntary works of the APEC system, the truth of the matter is APEC is alive and well and flourishing and in that context, EAEC is less potentially risky than it was at the outset when APEC was a more fragile institution.

[McGrath] Sen. Evans says the merits or otherwise of the EAEC would still have something to discuss but Australia does not see the issue as being as critical as it once did. [end recording]

Australia's Evans Attends Joint 'Dialogue'

BK0312130695 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has called for remedial education for journalists and business people as part of the wider attempt to improve Australia's relationship with Malaysia. Katherine McGrath reports from Kuala Lumpur that Senator Evans cohosted the inaugural Malaysia-Australia Dialogue, a new bilateral forum designed to foster ties between the two nations:

[Begin McGrath recording] Sen. Evans says the relationship between Australia and Malaysia is currently strong but it could easily return to a crisis point unless the moves are made on both sides. Relations reached the low point in 1993 when Prime Minister Paul Keating referred to Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, as recalcitrant. Over the weekend, 30 representatives from government and academia joined in the talkfest. Sen. Evans says the group identified business, cultural, and scientific links that could be developed to strengthen ties between the two countries. He says education will play a major part and it is essential each country learn more about the other. [end recording]

Minister Vows To Help Achieve Peace in Bosnia

BK0412041095 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 4 Dec 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kepala Batas, Sunday [3 December] — Malaysia will continue to take part in any international efforts to accelerate the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia will demonstrate its ability to help rebuild Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly its basic facilities.

"Such efforts are important because the Bosnian people have long suffered and have incurred great losses with the destruction of their houses, buildings, property, and other facilities since the war began in 1991.

"We will maintain a number of our soldiers in that country to help the peacekeepers from other countries accelerate the peace process there," he said. [passage omitted on launching of foster child program]

He said although the Bosnian peace plan has been approved, Malaysia will not renounce its responsibility and will instead continue efforts to achieve peace there as soon as possible.

"Our leaders and soldiers will have greater and more challenging tasks to implement the peace process. We must prove our ability to help others and we hope that our assistance will also bring benefit in other fields," he said.

According to him, the country will keep its promise to help rebuild Bosnia-Herzegovina in addition to enhancing bilateral economic cooperation.

The program was jointly approved by the Bosnian leader and Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed recently.

"I hope that the Bosnian peace plan will be implemented as soon as possible to enable the people of that country to enjoy peace," he said.

Abdullah said although the government has no special plan yet to rebuild Bosnia-Herzegovina, the program will be implemented on the basis of the earlier agreement.

He said the government should hold talks with the UN members taking part in the Bosnian peace mission before the program is implemented.

He said the government has no plan yet to issue tenders to certain national companies to rebuild that country.

Replying to questions, he welcomed NATO's decision to approve a plan to send 60,000 soldiers to Bosnia-Herzegovina to monitor the implementation of the peace accord and authorize the first batch of the soldiers to immediately assume their duty.

Yesterday, a NATO spokesman was quoted as saying that the organization had authorized 2,600 soldiers to take up their respective positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina to pave the way for the arrival of a peace enforcement force.

"NATO's move is an encouraging development, and we hope that our soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina will prove their ability to achieve peace there," he said.

Officials Stress Opposition to Nuclear Weapons

BK0312102995 Kuala Lumpur SUNDAY STAR in English 3 Dec 95

[Report by P. Bala Kumar — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — There should be no use of force or sanctions to promote non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and deter countries from conducting nuclear tests, Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad said yesterday.

"We believe that for peace we have to use peaceful ways. This is a global issue (nuclear non-proliferation) and it must be settled through international forums," he said.

Speaking to reporters after opening the international conference on "Nuclear Proliferation in Asia: Issues and challenges" here yesterday, Dr. Toyad said Malaysia had on numerous occasions used various international forums to voice its dissatisfaction on the issue.

He said Malaysia, together with other ASEAN countries, would propose measures at the ASEAN Summit in Bangkok on December 14 to strengthen the concept of Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (Zopfan).

Earlier in his speech, Dr. Toyad said Malaysia was committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as reflected in the recent all political party memorandum and the resolution adopted by Parliament to condemn France for conducting nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] deputy secretary general Datuk Hasmy Agam said Malaysia along with ASEAN partners would push for early completion of a draft on nuclear weapon free zone in South-East Asia during the summit.

"The creation of a nuclear weapon free zone in South-East Asia will complement the Rarotonga Treaty of the

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone, thereby making most of the Pacific region a nuclear free area," he said.

He said this in his work paper entitled Nuclear Weapons, Non- Proliferation and Regional Order: The South East Asian Scenario at the two-day international conference.

Hasmy also said Malaysia's immediate priority would be to ensure the conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by no later than the end of 1996 and progress in the negotiation of a ban on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

Singapore

Goh Chok Tong, Mahathir 'Satisfied' With Ties

BK0212110295 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and his visiting Malaysian counterpart Dr. Mahathir Mohamed are satisfied with the relationship between the two countries. Mr. Goh's press secretary said both leaders reviewed the close ties between Malaysia and Singapore and had fruitful talks this morning. They also agreed to explore new areas of cooperation.

Speaking to reporters today, Dr. Mahathir said discussions covered railway, water supply, and other bilateral concerns. The leaders also reviewed regional development and exchanged views on the forthcoming ASEAN summit in Bangkok.

Cooperation on Environment Discussed With Malaysia

BK0312104895 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 3 Dec 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Malaysia and Singapore will step up monitoring and look into ways to improve the water quality in the Johor Straits, especially in the area of reducing faecal contamination and nutrients.

Once the water becomes cleaner, the Malaysian authorities believe that it might even be possible to develop recreational facilities there.

The improvement of water quality was needed because tests had shown signs of high faecal contamination in some stretches of water and possible over-growth of water plants due to high nutrient content in the Straits.

The joint action was announced by Singapore's Ministry of the Environment and Malaysia's Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment in a press statement released yesterday. The joint statement came after a closed-door meeting between the Acting Minister for the Environment, Rear Admiral (NS) [National Service] Teo Chee Hean, and his Malaysian counterpart, Datuk Law Hieng Ding. The latter was on a two-day official visit here. During the meeting, the ministers discussed issues of common concern and also reviewed the progress of work carried out by the Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment.

On Johor Straits' water quality, they directed the committee's Working Group to coordinate measures to identify sources of pollutant discharge and to work out clean-up plans, especially on sewage discharge.

On illegal sludge dumping in the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea, the statement said Malaysia had stepped up surveillance and would seek the cooperation of ASEAN neighbours to help detain ships which committed illegal dumping.

Other issues which were raised included control of motor vehicle emissions. Both ministers noted that the number of smoky diesel vehicles on both sides of the Causeway had remained relatively low and constant.

But Malaysia said it would look into reducing the sulphur content in diesel from 0.5 per cent to 0.3 per cent by weight. From July next year, the sulphur content in diesel here will be reduced to 0.3 per cent.

On noise pollution, the statement noted that from next April, newly registered vehicles here will have to comply with a stricter set of prescribed noise emission limits. Malaysia will also tighten its standards and enforcement in this area.

Haze pollution

The ministers noted that it was important for countries to strengthen the capacity to prevent and manage land and forest fires. Malaysia, for example, has set up a national task force to tackle forest fires.

They said the establishment of regional response plans would help in complementing national capabilities in dealing with fire and haze problems.

Managing hazardous chemicals and toxic wastes [subhead]

The ministers agreed that an exercise involving the deployment of personnel from both countries in a simulated incident on the Causeway should be undertaken under the Emergency Response Plan. It was also agreed that vehicles carrying large amounts of flammable and dangerous substances should be channelled to the proposed Second Link at Tuas, when it is completed and open to traffic by the end of 1997.

Cambodia

Government Expels Six U.S. Nationals

BK0212084795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 2 (AFP) — The Cambodian government has arrested six US nationals suspected of leading an anti-communist group determined to overthrow the Vietnamese government and begun moves to deport them, officials said Saturday.

The six, who include five Vietnamese-American men and one US-born man, are thought to be organizers of Vietnam Tudo, or Free Vietnam.

They were arrested Thursday and Friday and told Saturday to leave the country within a week, according to General Hok Longdy, the chief of Cambodia's National Police.

Four of the men, including US-born Fred Fitzpatrick, are US citizens while the other two are permanent residents of the United States, according to sources familiar with the case.

They will be detained at immigration police headquarters until they leave, Hok Longdy said.

A US embassy spokesman said the embassy had been notified of the men's arrests within 24 hours and that a consular official had visited them but would not comment further.

He said the names, ages and hometowns of the men could not be released because of privacy laws.

The six men were brought to Phnom Penh's police headquarters Saturday where Hok Longdy ordered them to leave along with 32 ethnic Vietnamese, including three women, who will all be sent back to Vietnam if they are not legal residents of Cambodia.

Free Vietnam was established in mid-1994 and became a concern later that year when it began to attract more than fringe elements and its members began boasting that they could raise more than 20,000 soldiers, according to government officials.

Please go back to where you come from, our government doesn't allow you to operate here," Hok Longdy said. "Our people do not want to see bloodshed again in Cambodia."

"This is the first and last warning we will give," he said, adding that those who remained in the country working for the group would be arrested.

He said they would be charged with creating insecurity and possession of illegal weapons, if warranted. Those crimes are punishable by up to three to fifteen years in prison.

Literature and audiotapes confiscated from the group said it has organized a provisional government called the "Free Vietnamese Government" with nine ministries headed by a prime minister named Nguyen Thieu Chan.

The literature also says the group has organized four armed divisions of soldiers, but gives no indication of how many men they have under arms.

The presence of the group here has become a major embarrasment for the the Phnom Penh government which is trying to strengthen its relations with Vietnam.

The Cambodian government is anxious to have the matter resolved before King Norodom Sihanouk travels to Hanoi later this month for a state visit.

Top Leaders Voice 'Unswerving' Support to King

BK2911040595 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 29 Nov 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Chan Reaksmei]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister; and Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, have conveyed a joint letter to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk expressing unswerving and constant support to him in his capacity as monarch and head of the state of Cambodia.

The letter states: "All of us, Cambodian people throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia, unquestioningly believe in your lofty and revered leadership and in you, who represents a cool shade for all your children."

"At all times, we remember your brilliant achievements and feel grateful to you. You are highly revered. You are imbued with infallible compassion, a matchless ability, and a marvelous ingenuity in pursuing incredible activities for the sake of national independence, territorial integrity, prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as its prestige in the international arena." [passage omitted on Prince Norodom Sirivut's detainment on charges of plotting to kill Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen]

In their letter of support, the three leaders also wrote: "We absolutely oppose and solemnly denounce pestiferous reports that affect Your Majesty's sublime dignity and the monarchy of the Kingdom of Cambodia."

Sam Rangsi Appeals for International Support

*BK0212090895 Hong Kong AFP in English
0701 GMT 2 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 2 (AFP) — Cambodia's most prominent dissident Sam Rangsi on Saturday made a plea for international support following an announcement by the Ministry of Interior that it would shortly move to close the headquarters of his newly-founded party.

The former Minister of Finance said moves against his Khmer Nation Party (KNP) are a violation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements which ended more than 20 years of full-scale civil war and bound Cambodia to "follow a system of liberal democracy on the basis of pluralism" and respect for human rights.

"Are all the nations who (?guided) the Paris Agreements prepared to let these fine-sounding words ... be now forgotten and derided by the government which was born from that international sacrifice?" Sam Rainsy said in a statement from Paris where he is now visiting.

The KNP has been declared illegal because it did not submit what the government considered necessary documents before the party was founded on November 9.

Though action against the KNP has not yet been taken, co-Minister of Interior Yu Hokkri on Friday said he was preparing to force the party's headquarters to close because it was illegal.

Sam Rangsi disputes the government's contention that his party is illegal and has called the government's refusal to recognize the KNP "administrative harrassment" against liberal, multi-party democracy that he suspects may shortly turn to "physical intimidation, arrests and violence."

If that happens, "I believe the international community will no longer stay silent," Sam Rangsi said.

"I do not believe UN agencies, foreign embassies, non-governmental organizations and the public will accept more scenes of bloodshed in poltical party offices..." he said, noting past political violence.

"Any moves against the headquarters and members of the Khmer Nation Party will be seen for what they are: as one more step on the tragic road back to dictatorship."

In a related matter, the government has prohibited the opening of KNP offices in the provinces until the party is deemed legal and also ordered the party to stop using the image of King Jayavarman the Seventh as its logo, according to minutes of a November 15 cabinet meeting.

Khmer National Party Criticizes Government Ban

BK0112101095 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 1 Dec 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by Kroesna]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of Sam Rangsi's Khmer Nation Party [KNP] on 29 November expressed its displeasure with the Interior Ministry's 28 November reply affirming that the ministry does not officially allow or recognize the creation of the KNP and that the KNP remains an unlawful political party. The response was signed by Co-Interior Ministers Sar Kheng and Yu Hokkri.

At a news conference held at the party headquarters in Phnom Penh on the morning of 29 November, KNP Chairman Sam Rangsi criticized the government's stance. He appeared to be optimistic, however, that his negotiations with the government will be conducive to the recognition of his party.

In their letter, the co-interior ministers said there is no reason whatsoever for the Interior Ministry to consider the application for the creation of the KNP further, as the party was launched without permission. The letter added that the Interior Ministry has never been consulted about what law should be applied: Your Excellency (Sam Rangsi) volunteered to fulfill the conditions specified in the August 1992 UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] electoral law. Why, then, did you say after the launching of the KNP that the law is not applicable to the creation of your party? This statement has led the ministry to the perception that it is really difficult to deal with KNP, while the Kingdom of Cambodia still lacks a law defining the right to set up political parties.

Some believe that the Interior Ministry's clarification is correct because the ministry has clearly stated that the application for the creation of the KNP can be considered after a law regarding the formation of political parties is adopted by the National Assembly and becomes effective in accordance with Article 42 of the Constitution.

Rebels Preparing Attacks in Kompong Thom Province

BK0212113395 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 2 Dec 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Peyatro]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the 3d Department of the 4th Military Region, 15 Khmer Rouge elements were killed and 51 assorted guns and four vehicles were seized in attacks launched by government troops against Khmer Rouge bases in the border area of

An Seh this week. The source added that the rebels are now in a defensive position. They have called in about 150-200 of their fighters from the northwestern border area, however, in preparation to attack and retake the seats of Stoung and Prasat Balang Districts in Kompong Thom Province during this dry season. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Admiral Rules Out Leasing Naval Base to U.S.

BK0312125795 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0822 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Surabaya, 3 Dec (ANTARA) — Admiral Tanto Kuswanto, the Republic of Indonesia Navy chief, has reiterated that the Navy will not rent out its base to foreigners because this is against Indonesia's free and active foreign policy.

"The Navy base to be constructed at Teluk Ratai [Ratai Bay] in Lampung will not be leased to any foreign country because it will eventually become the center of activity for the Indonesian Navy's Western Fleet," he told journalists at Pangkalan Ujung [Ujung Jetty] in Surabaya on Sunday.

Responding to a journalist's question on the whether the United States will take advantage of the Teluk Ratai base following the withdrawal of its warships from Subic Bay, Adm. Tanto said the base is meant especially for the Indonesia Navy's Western Fleet.

The Teluk Ratai base will be an alternative center for the Western Fleet force, as the condition of its existing center at Jakarta Bay is no longer efficient.

Adm. Tanto has said that not all of the Navy's activities will be transferred to Lampung. Jakarta will remain the center of activities for the Military Sea Traffic Command II.

On the construction cost of the Teluk Ratai Navy base, Adm. Tanto refused to comment, saying only that the base project is expected to accommodate all warships of the Western and Eastern Fleets. [passage omitted on improvement of quality of Navy personnel]

Minister Discusses ASEAN Nuclear Treaty

BK0212141695 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Dec 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS — After almost 10 years of negotiations, the Southeast Asian countries have finally agreed to adopt the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Southeast Asia. The treaty will be signed and ratified at the Fifth ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand on 14-15 December.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this to reporters after meeting with President Suharto at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace on Friday (1 December). Accompanying Alatas to see the president were Hartarto, coordinating minister for industries and trade; Minister-State Secretary Murdiono; and Trade Minister Satrio Budiarjo Yudono.

"The treaty is the outcome of years of difficult negotiations. Now it is time for ASEAN to sign and ratify it. We have also gained approval from other Southeast Asian countries that have not yet joined ASEAN," Alatas said, adding that the treaty will cover all Southeast Asian countries, not just ASEAN, which only recently admitted Vietnam as a new member. Alatas noted the treaty will also cover all Southeast Asian territory, including territorial waters under the jurisdiction of the countries in the region.

The treaty stipulates that as a nuclear free zone, no Southeast Asian country will produce, store, or allow other countries to store or produce nuclear weapons on their territory. Each member country is entitled to formulate its own policy on other countries using its sea or air territory for transit passage.

"Questions will be raised as to whether a ship passing through the territory may carry nuclear weapons," said Alatas, adding that such a clause also exists in the Rarotonga Treaty on the nuclear free zone in the Pacific and the Mexico Bay [Teluk Meksiko — name as published] Treaty on the nuclear free zone in Latin America. Alatas stressed that the Southeast Asian treaty was drafted to deal only with nuclear weapons; it still allows the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

On the stand adopted by countries with nuclear weapons such as the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China, Alatas said the treaty contains clauses that make it possible for the five countries to associate themselves with the treaty. In other words, they can support the scope and objectives of the treaty and work together to ensure the absence of nuclear weapons in the region.

Alatas noted that the treaty was drafted by holding consultations with countries with nuclear weapons but not by comparing it with previous treaties. Therefore, it is hoped that those countries will sign a special protocol after the Treaty on a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in Southeast Asia is signed and ratified by the Southeast Asian countries. [passage omitted previewing ASEAN summit in Bangkok]

Spokesman on UN Rights Chief Visit to E. Timor

BK0412064395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0610 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (AFP) — The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, will go to East Timor on Monday and is also to see the disputed territory's rebel leader in his Jakarta prison cell.

Ayala was to go to East Timor for two days after meetings with Indonesian Supreme Court officials, the ministers of justice and women's affairs, and the National Human Rights Commission, the UN Development Programme office said.

Before arriving in the East Timorese capital of Dili, Lasso will make a one-day stop in Denpasar, Bali, and meet with the Regional Military Commander Major General Abdul Rivai, whose jurisdiction includes East Timor, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghaffar Fadyl told AFP Monday.

Lasso is also to visit East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao at the Cipinang prison in Jakarta, where he is serving a 20-year jail sentence.

"I will probably visit the prison after I arrive back from East Timor Wednesday," Ayala told AFP.

Fadyl said that Lasso will meet Gusmao "most likely on Thursday."

Gusmao, who was arrested in 1992 and jailed for plotting against the state and for illegal possession of firearms, last week called for the demilitarisation of East Timor, the release of political detainees and the installation of a UN representative, according to reports from Lisbon.

Ramos Horta, head of a coalition of groups seeking the independence of the former Portuguese colony, said the call was made in a letter from Gusmao that he delivered Wednesday to Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres.

Ayala said Sunday after meeting Foreign Minister Ali Alatas that he discussed East Timor and other issues concerning Indonesia in United Nations reports.

The UN envoy said he was not in Indonesia on "an investigation mission," but to "promote and protect human rights."

His trip comes ahead of talks on East Timor between the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Portugal in London next month under the auspices of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Rights group Amnesty International said in a statement Sunday that during his visit, Lasso would "urge the Indonesian Government to implement the existing recommendations of United Nations human rights rapporteurs."

A report last year by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions, Bacre Ndiaye, was highly critical of Indonesia's rights record in East Timor, and called for a new and independent commission of inquiry on the 1991 massacre in Dili.

Alatas rejected the call on Sunday. The foreign minister said no new commission was planned on the shootings in a Dili cemetery that left scores of demonstrators dead.

Indonesia annexed the former Portuguese colony of East Timor in 1976 but the move is not recognized by the United Nations.

Fadyl said that the commissioner would meet with East Timor Governor Jose Abilio Osorio Soares, Military Commander Colonel Mahidin Simbolon, the International Committee for the Red Cross, and vocal Roman Catholic Archbishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo.

Lasso "will either meet President Suharto or Vice President Try Sutrisno" Attorney General Singgih, Defence Minister Edi Sudrajat, and Alatas before he departs for London Thursday evening, Fadyl said, after meeting with "a number of NGOs and diplomats on Wednesday.

Rights Group Reports Detention of Civilians

BK0412031895 (Internet) INDONESIA Listserv in English 4 Dec 95

["Human Rights Report No: 8/95," issued by the East Timor Center for Human Rights Information, Education, and Training on 1 December; place not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. ETCHRIET [East Timor Center for Human Rights Information, Education, and Training] has received information from East Timor sources about the detention and severe mistreatment of nine East Timorese civilians on 10 November 95 by Indonesian SGI [expansion unknown] intelligence forces, in the village of Leohat, Soibada, Manatuto District.

The victims are: Jose Velho, 32; farmer Valente da Cruz, 47; ex Sub-district Head Odengo, 27; unemployed Delfim, 29; unemployed Martinho Lima, 35; Joao da Costa, 37; Domingos S. da Cruz, 39; Domingos Berquelho, 34; Almarrindo, 28.

After being arrested, these people have been tortured through beatings with iron bars, application of electric shocks, beatings and other torture forms.

The detainees have been kept in isolation so far, and some are in a very bad condition. East Timorese sources request international action to secure their release.

2. A second report received from East Timor refers to the capture in late November of one East Timor Falintil [East Timor National Liberation Armed Forces] resistance fighter, code named Nixon, currently being kept at SGI military intelligence headquarters at Colmera in Dili. It is presumed that he is being subjected to torture, in line with common practice.

The same message refers to the present large increases in numbers of Indonesian military stationed in East Timor.

ETCHRIET requests appropriate action by international human rights organisations to protect the above people from the serious dangers they are facing.

Commissioner: Visit Not Political

BK0312101795 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0729 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, 3 Dec (ANTARA) — Jose Ayala Lasso, the UN high commissioner for human rights, has said that his visit to Indonesia is not aimed at carrying out investigations. It is only for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Following his two-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the Foreign Affairs Department in Jakarta today, Lasso said he and Alatas had agreed on the need to promote human rights in "every part" of this earth. Speaking to journalists, Lasso said: "My visit is not for investigative purposes." He was in the company of Alatas and several staff members from the Foreign Affairs Department. Alatas and Lasso did not respond much to questions from journalists about the latter's itinerary and meetings to be held later with certain parties.

Sources in the Foreign Affairs Department say that later today Lasso will probably visit Xanana Gusmao, leader of the East Timor security disturbance movement, now under detention at the Police Detention Center in Cipinang, Jakarta.

Lasso's visit comes at the invitation of the state government to promote the implementation of human rights in Indonesia, Alatas said last week.

"I have expressed my highest appreciation for the invitation to come to Indonesia and East Timor province in connection with human rights," Lasso said. Lasso has repeatedly said that his visit to Indonesia is to look into human rights affairs and not political affairs.

He said he and Alatas discussed and analyzed the contradictory reports on Indonesia submitted to the United Nations by various human rights institutions.

According to the schedule, Lasso will make a statement on his observations of human rights protections in Indonesia at the end of his visit. [passage omitted on Lasso's itinerary]

Philippine Diplomat Views Talks With MNLF

BK0212095295 Manila PNA in English 1223 GMT 1 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta (PNA) — A seasoned Filipino diplomat Friday expressed full satisfaction on the outcome of the almost concluded five-day third round of formal peace talks between the GRP-MNLF [Government of the Republic of Philippines-Moro National Liberation Front] panels in this historic city of Indonesia.

"It is fairly successful and satisfactory that we have been able to accomplish many more points into our agreements in this third round," Ambassador Manuel T. Yan. GRP panel head, told PNA in an exclusive interview inside the lobby of hotel Saripan Pacific here.

Yan said that interim agreement that will be signed late this afternoon by all key participants in the talks — the GRP-MNLP panels including representatives from the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) and Indonesian government, is the consolidation of all the points of consensus from the end of the second round of talks and up to present.

The interim agreement which is expected to be signed covers the four major issues that had been already resolved by both parties including education, economic and financial system, mines and mineral, judiciary and Shariah [Islamic] law and administrative system — such as representation in the national government, legislative assembly and executive council.

Aside from Ambassador Yan, expected to sign the agreement include Professor Nur Misuari, MNLF panel head, Ambassador Mohamed Mohsin, OIC deputy secretary general, Indonesian Ambassador Wiryono Sastrohandoyo, peace talk spokesman and facilitator, and Libyan Ambassador to the Philippines.

Philippines

SRV President Views Troop Reduction in Spratlys

BK0212100295 Manila PNA in English
1223 GMT 1 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila (PNA) — Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh has welcomed the suggestion of House Speaker Jose de Venecia for a reduction of troops by claimant nations of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

According to a statement from de Venecia's office, the proposal was "welcomed and appreciated" by the Vietnamese president. De Venecia made the suggestion during a courtesy call on the visiting Vietnamese leader.

Representative Jaime Lopez, chairman of the House foreign relations committee, who was present at the meeting at the Manila Hotel, said Speaker De Venecia's proposal and President Anh's positive response marks a "diplomatic breakthrough on the Spratlys."

President Le Duc Anh said he would consider the best way to handle De Venecia's proposal for troop reductions.

"The move would constitute a significant confidence building measure that might be followed by other claimant-nations with garrison troops in the disputed Spratlys," de Venecia said.

The Philippines and Vietnam could simultaneously initiate this undertaking as a manifestation of the two countries' commitment to the 1992 ASEAN declaration on the South China Sea and the nine principles agreed upon recently when the two countries worked out a code of conduct in the contested areas in the South China Sea, de Venecia added.

Manila, Muslim Rebels Sign Interim Agreement

BK0412055995 Manila PNA in English
0858 GMT 3 Dec 95

[From the Press Review — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Manila, Dec. 2 (PNA) — Following are the top stories and excerpts of commentaries in the major English-language Philippines newspapers today: [passage omitted]

INQUIRER — Gov't [government], Moro rebs [rebels] sign interim pact

Jakarta — An interim agreement was signed yesterday by the Philippine Government and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) on the creation of an autonomous government in Mindanao. But the two panels left for the fourth round of talks two issues — the integration of MNLF troops into the military and police and the holding of a plebiscite to set up the autonomous government...

Manuel Yan, government chief negotiator, said the government was "ready to make concessions" on the remaining issue, especially on the plebiscite for the setting up of the provisional government in the autonomous region...

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia told a press conference after the signing of the interim accord that no date has been set for the fourth round of talks. But he expressed hope that "when we meet at the fourth peace talks it will indeed be the last round."...

Copies of the interim accord were not distributed to media but the joint press communique said 123 points under the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 were resolved by six support committees...

At the closing ceremonies, Misuari described the future as "very bright" as a result of the success of the third round of talks. But he admitted that few things still have to be ironed out...

"We have at last succeeded in laying the concrete foundation, the future of our people and our prosperity," he said...

A final agreement, Alatas said, will be signed after the two negotiating panels "will have time to reflect and consider what final accommodations they could offer each other in order to bring this process to a successful end."... (PDI Mindanao Bureau/INQUIRER) [passage omitted]

Ramos Hails Progress

BK0412060295 Manila PNA in English
0858 GMT 3 Dec 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Manila (PNA) — President Fidel V. Ramos Saturday said he is anticipating the fourth and final round of talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) "with high expectations" as he hailed the progress made by the two parties during their third round of talks that ended Friday in Jakarta.

The Chief Executive said the success of the recently-concluded peace talks has infused the nation with renewed confidence that a just and lasting peace will be achieved in Mindanao.

"I am firmly committed to finish the job soonest — in the public interest, in line with constitutional imperatives. We must stretch our options to the maximum. Peace cannot wait. It is the lifeblood of national progress and stability," he said in a statement.

The president revealed that 123 issues were hurdled in the third round of peace negotiations in Indonesia, leaving only five major issues still to be resolved.

He said the talks resulted in almost complete agreement in three areas: education, economic development, and Shari'a [Islamic law].

The five remaining issues are: revenue-sharing in the proposed autonomy, Armed Forces of the Philippines-MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] organization, regional security force, mechanism for the proposed provisional government, and the area of the autonomy.

In the same statement, the president congratulated the two panels for the statesmanship they have shown during the talks.

"I bear faith that animated by shared ideals of national interest, both sides will be able to muster what Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has called the "final burst" of energy and dynamism to finish the job," he said.

The president also thanked Indonesian President Suharto for the "paternal role he has played and the highly encouraging words he has consistently enunciated."

The president also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Hamid Al Gabid, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), and the members of the OIC Committee of Six — Libya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Bangladesh, and Somalia.

A joint press communique issued by the GRP [Government of the Republic of the Philippines] and the MNLF panels said that both sides have clear appreciation of each other's position on the remaining contentious issues to be resolved.

The two panels committed to resolve the issues "through intensive consultations in line with the objective of reaching a just, comprehensive, and final settlement of the conflict in Southern Philippines."

The statement said the Joint Ceasefire Committee will further investigate the alleged cease-fire violations and submit its recommendations to the peace panels for appropriate action.

"The participants also agreed to improve and strengthen the implementation of the 1993 Interim Ceasefire Agreement as a confidence-building measure for greater peace and stability in Southern Philippines," the statement said.

For its part, the government committed to expedite the logistical support necessary for the smooth and effective operation of the OIC Observer/Monitoring Mission. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Banhan Holds Talks With Australian Minister

BK0212150395 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australian Foreign Minister and Senator Gareth Evans called on Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha at government house yesterday on his visit to Bangkok to participate in the 1995 Pacific Rim Forum. He extended an invitation to Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha to visit Australia. The prime minister accepted the invitation and promised to pay a visit to Australia early next year in February or March. The two discussed the outcome of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, leaders' meeting in Osaka, Japan. They shared the views that the meeting not only provided a forum for APEC leaders to express their opinions and attitude in economic cooperation but also the opportunities for them to discuss trade cooperation, beneficial to all countries.

The Australian foreign minister also asked Thailand to allow an increase in Qantas Airways' flights to Thailand. The prime minister said he would refer the matter to the Ministry of Transport and Communications for consideration.

Evans Urges ASEAN To Be Cautious on Burma

BK0212115395 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Dec 95 p A5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASEAN should exercise caution in welcoming Burma to its upcoming summit to maintain leverage over the country's military junta, said Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

Evans reaffirmed Canberra's position during a meeting with his Thai counterpart, Kasemsamoson Kasemsi. Both spoke at the Pacific Forum's four-day gathering, which ended yesterday.

The Australian minister urged the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) to exercise caution in its dealings with Burma, particularly in welcoming the country's ruling State Law and Restoration Council (Slorc) to the summit, because the junta is eager to make headway in the international community.

"Something Slorc very much wants to gain is respectability through Asean. By being cautious about bestowing respectability, Asean can actually exercise some leverage," he said.

Burmese leader Gen [General] Than Shwe is expected to attend the Dec 14-15 summit as Asean's guest. Laos and Cambodia are also to be represented.

Evans pointed out that Asean could be helpful, in a sphere in which Australia has little influence, because of Burma's isolation and traditional unwillingness to take seriously international concern about human rights violations there.

He said Western sanctions applied through the United Nations are ineffectual, invariably meeting with Chinese resistance. China, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has the power of veto.

Kasemsamoson said he told Evans that fostering closer ties with Burma will promote international understanding, and eventually a better standard of living for the Burmese.

Kasemsamoson noted that the Asean summit has nothing to do with "rewarding" participants.

"We are here, we have to deal with our neighbours and we will not change in order to please anyone," he said.

He suggested the Burma question demands a different perspective. Next-door neighbour Thailand cannot afford to experiment.

In a luncheon speech, Kasemsamoson said he takes the affairs of Thailand's neighbours seriously and believes that as neighbours, all of their fates are intertwined.

"I believe Thailand has a responsibility to do everything possible to ensure that her neighbours also prosper," he said.

Evans also met Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha.

At July's Asean foreign ministers' meeting with seven dialogue partners in Brunei, Evans warned that it was premature to extend the olive branch to Slorc simply because Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi had been released from house arrest. He urged Asean to push for a further indication that Burma is ready to embrace democracy.

Daily Criticizes ASEAN Policy Toward Burma

BK0412060495 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 4 Dec 95 p 4A

[Editorial: "ASEAN Is Legitimizing SLORC Rule"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ASEAN Heads of State Summit meeting just around the corner, and the likely representation of the Burmese military leaders as observers, indicate that the timing of the Burmese constitution drafting convention to coincide with the Bangkok gathering was not an accident. It was a well-calculated attempt to gain publicity and legitimacy which has already been given in private by ASEAN leaders to the junta which calls itself the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Here is a clique of military men who dishonored the pledge given to their fellow countrymen. A group that refused to hand over power to the legally elected party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won a landslide victory at the election ironically held under the supervision of the military rulers themselves.

Instead of transferring power, the SLORC decided to imprison the legitimate leaders elected by the majority, throwing the country into turmoil and civil unrest.

It is sad that the region has forgotten the thousands of Burmese people who gave their lives, and the tens of thousands still lingering in make-shift prisons, simply because they tried hard to restore democracy in their country.

It is sad that ASEAN countries, through their "constructive engagement" policy guided by monetary interests over the past six years, have each helped strengthen the SLORC economically to consolidate its power and suppress the democracy-loving majority and their leaders in that country.

It is sad that ASEAN leaders have chosen to look the other way and be immune to the call of the majority suffering under the military boot. ASEAN is legitimizing the role played by SLORC.

It is sad that ASEAN, in its desire to get the rest of Southeast Asian nations into its fold and reach the envisaged goal of ASEAN- 10, has sacrificed democracy for stability. Stability has become a prerequisite for economic growth and industrial development under the free market economy in the region — even though the country is ruled by a repressive dictatorship.

Guided by economic considerations, ASEAN has failed to use any other yardstick to measure the claim for legitimacy by the SLORC regime. Predictably, ASEAN may have thought that "a known devil is better than an unknown angel" in the case of politics in Burma.

Some may argue that if Vietnam, a communist country, can be enrolled as a member, why not the Burmese military junta? But the fact remains, socialist countries have been legally recognized by the world community as countries which are trying to reform their centralized economy into a market-orientated one. In the case of the

Burmese clique, despite the overt stamping of its boots on the people, it craves legitimacy in the eyes of the world community.

The Burmese constitution drafting convention created on the guidelines set by the SLORC leadership, seems designed to ensure the continuation of military power in the country. The revealed objective in prohibiting NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi from participating in any election for the country's leadership, makes insignificant her release from six years under house arrest.

ASEAN countries had welcomed the release by saying, "constructive engagement" was working. Singapore has encouraged Burma by arms supplies and hotel projects; Malaysia with trade and industrial projects; Indonesia with political support and Thailand by inviting SLORC as "a special guest of the host country" last year during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. There cannot be any doubt that all ASEAN members have now accepted the SLORC as the legitimate rulers and disregarded the voice of the majority Burmese people and the people's leader Aung Sun Kyi.

If commerce and profits to each country's capitalist sectors take precedence over democratic values, then god help the democratic peoples of the ASEAN region against their rulers.

Official Details Talks With Malaysia on Incident

BK0212145295 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thailand and Malaysia have reached an understanding over the killing of Thai fishermen by Malaysian officials. The two countries will set up a joint committee to look after fishing affairs.

Talking to reporters upon his return from Malaysia this afternoon, Suwit Khunkitti, deputy agriculture and cooperatives minister, said he had been briefed on the incident by Thai Embassy officials and the deputy military attache in Malaysia. He discussed the issue with Malaysian Deputy Agriculture Minister Tengku Mahmud Mansor. The Malaysian deputy agriculture minister expressed regret over the incident and reaffirmed that it is not Malaysian policy to use force to solve problems. The two sides agreed to find ways to prevent such problems, such as the setting up of a joint committee for negotiations and the establishment of joint fishing ventures. Thailand will suggest appropriate joint fishing ventures for consideration by Malaysia.

Regarding the bodies of the two fishermen, Suwit said that according to Thai Embassy officials, the two were shot by one bullet each from long-distance range, not point blank. The bodies are being sent from Kuantan State to Kuala Lumpur for autopsy. After that, the bodies will be sent back to Thailand by airplane, either tomorrow or Monday. Monthon Kraiwatnuson, deputy agriculture and cooperatives minister, is looking after the issue in Malaysia. The Malaysian Government will provide assistance for the families of the two deceased:

[Begin Suwit recording] The Malaysian Government, taking into account the good relations between the two neighboring countries, has expressed its concern over this undesirable incident and is willing to provide assistance to the families of the deceased. Regarding the return of the fishing trawlers, the Malaysian Fisheries Department director general said the issue will be discussed between the Malaysian Government and the owner of the trawlers. The Malaysian side is willing to consider the issue. [end recording]

Suwit also expressed his concern over the bomb threat against the Malaysian Embassy. He called on those people to take into account the good relations between the neighboring countries and the possible impact on the confidence of foreign investors and the upcoming ASEAN summit in Bangkok. He also said that the government had resolved the problems as demanded by the Fishing Association of the Southern Provinces.

Editorial Comments on Dispute

BK0212123395 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Dec 95 p A4

[Editorial: "Thai-Malaysian Fishing Dispute Lacks a Solution]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] To people following the chronic fishing problem between Thailand and Malaysia, the urgent departure to Kuala Lumpur on Thursday of a high-level Thai delegation following renewed bilateral tension created little optimism.

Every single incident in the new, unfolding episode looks dishearteningly familiar: Malaysians take aggressive action against Thai trawlers; Thai fishermen threaten unruly protests; the Thai media ups the ante by saying national honour is at stake; and the Bangkok government responds in an awkward manner.

Compared with other international issues, the causes of fishing disputes may be less complicated. Thailand, whose fishing fleet is one of the world's largest, is running out of fish, and the abundant seas of Malaysia, whose fishing industry is much smaller, always attracts Thai fishermen.

There are also legalities involved. According to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a vessel can pass through the 200-mile Exclusive

Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends from the rim of a coastal state's territorial water, without informing the coastal country. But according to Malaysian law, which largely reflects Kuala Lumpur's mistrust of hungry fishing fleets, particularly from Thailand, ships are required to give advance notice before passing through Malaysia's EEZ.

The issue of "innocent passage" has been a thorny one for years. While Thailand insists on the right of its fishermen to enter Malaysia's EEZ without the required advanced notification, Kuala Lumpur contends the proclaimed "innocence" is not truly innocent. A famous joke has it that Thai fishermen, who are supposed to keep fishing nets neatly on board during the EEZ passage, like to "wash" fishing gear while passing through Malaysian waters.

On the Thai side, the alleged "pirate-like" drastic action of Malaysian authorities against Thai fishermen has been a major concern. Following similar disputes in 1988, Thai fishermen threatened to lay siege on the Malaysian embassy and demanded that Kuala Lumpur diplomats inform them one week in advance before leaving or entering their mission's compound.

The high-level Thai delegation currently visiting Malaysia hopes to convey Bangkok's strong stand against the recent fatal shooting of two Thai fishermen by the Malaysian navy and bring back the bodies of the dead. Led by Deputy Agriculture Ministers Suwit Khunkitti and Monthon Kraiwatnuson, the delegates also want to initiate another round of serious talks to solve the on-going dispute.

Bangkok hopes to get a clear message across this time, that the gun attack on Thai fishermen after a reported four-hour chase was an "excessive and unreasonable use of force". The "innocent passage" right will also be reiterated, as will the issue of the treatment of arrested Thai fishermen.

Thailand is proposing setting up a joint task force on fisheries to prevent future fishing disputes flaring up into major conflicts. In the meantime, the Thai navy will increase its patrols in territorial waters to protect innocent Thai fishermen from possible abusive acts carried out by Malaysian patrol units.

As a long-term measure the Thai government vows to seek large-scale joint fishing ventures with other countries. Recently, the Marshalls, Palau and Guam islands have indicated that they want to enter into joint fishing ventures with Thailand.

But will the problem really go away? High-level bilateral talks following the 1988 tension generated much optimism, which simply evaporated later. The joint declaration between former prime minister Prem Tinsulanon and Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamed stating that both countries had reached a "new era in fishing cooperation" amounted to nothing.

Tension in the late 1980s led to small-scale joint fishing ventures with Malaysia. But even before that was achieved, a heavy political price had to be paid. Malaysian newspapers ran stories claiming that Thai fishermen were untrustworthy and were out to deplete Malaysian seas. This led to a new war of words.

Malaysia's concerns that Thai fishermen would catch more than the allowed limit has since been the biggest stumbling block to efforts to solve the problem through a large-scale Thai-Malaysian joint fishing venture.

So far it seems mutual mistrust is a key element in the dispute. The logic is simple: One side has fish and the other side needs fish. The Malaysian government doesn't trust Thai fishermen and the Thai government doesn't trust Malaysian authorities manning patrol gunboats.

Are we stuck in a Catch-22 situation? This pessimistic conclusion might be temporarily dispelled when the Thai delegation returns today after talks about the future. New committees may be set up. And more high-level visits may be exchanged.

But the thorn in bilateral ties between Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur has always been matters in the high seas, so this ghost from the past should never be underestimated.

PRC Delegation Visits Chamber of Commerce

BK0312141295 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 1 Dec 95 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Zheng Mingru, chairman of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce [TCCC], cordially received an economic and trade observation delegation of the All China Federation of Industry and Commerce led by Zhao Yuelun at the TCCC at 1030 on 25 November.

TCCC Chairman Zheng Mingru warmly welcomed the delegation's visit. He pointed out that the TCCC has served as a bridge for trade contacts between Thailand and China and made great contributions to the friendship between the Thai and Chinese peoples. TCCC Chairman Zheng Mingru also briefed the Chinese delegation on the investment atmosphere in Thailand. He hoped that Chinese entrepreneurs will take a broad view and invest in foreign countries, pushing China's economic development to a higher level.

Delegation chief Zhao Yuelun, on behalf of all the delegation members, expressed his heartfelt thanks to TCCC Chairman Zheng Mingru for finding the time to receive the delegation. He hoped that the two sides will strengthen bilateral contacts and understanding in order to make greater contributions to the economic and trade development of the two countries. The meeting was held amid a cordial atmosphere.

Chat Thai Sues Paper Over Bribe Allegation

BK0312115995 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 3 Dec 95 pp 1, 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Phairot Amphonprapha, legal adviser to the Chat Thai Party, filed a complaint on behalf of the Chat Thai Party with the duty officer at Nang Loeng Police Station at 1030 on 2 December to take criminal action against SIAM POST for publishing defamatory material. The police duty officer accepted the complaint for processing as a criminal case, assigning the case as No. 1952/1995.

The 27 November issue of SIAM POST was one of three Thai papers that published reports on a bribe offer for a submarine purchase project. The reports in those papers were a translation of AFP reports based on a report by Henrik Westander in a Swedish newspaper.

According to Phairot, SIAM POST was picked for legal action because even though the reports in the other papers constituted defamation against the Chat Thai Party, the SIAM POST report appeared to be the first Thai version. Although its report was not the original version, SIAM POST can be regarded as violating Article 328 of the Criminal Code for publishing defamatory materials without prior verification, thus causing damage to the Chat Thai Party. He was authorized by the party Legal Advisory Committee and the party leader to file the lawsuit. Legal action against others is under consideration. [passage omitted]

Spokesman, Politicians Comment

BK0312125595 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 3 Dec 95 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prime Minister will issue a statement to answer allegations that his Chat Thai Party was bribed to approve the purchase of two Swedish submarines, the government spokesman said yesterday.

Somsak Pritsanananthakun denied Banhan Sinlapa-acha had not made any statement so far because he was afraid. He was merely waiting for more information from the Foreign Ministry.

The spokesman also said Mr Banhan was consulting his lawyers about legal action against the author of the allegations and a newspaper in which they were published.

Mr Somsak said he thought any legal action would be against the Stockholm daily while no Thai newspaper reproducing the story was likely to be sued.

The allegation was made in an article in DAGENS NYHETER in which Henrik Westander, an arms trade researcher with the peace group Svenska Freds, said considerable sums had been paid to Chat Thai by either Kockums, a Swedish industrial group, or its agent in Bangkok.

DAGENDS NYHETER quoted Mr Westander as saying the bribes were paid to senior Chat Thai members during the July 2 election campaign, aimed at increasing Kockums's chances of winning the contract for the two submarines worth about 17 billion baht.

Mr Banhan, the Chat Thai leader, and other top government figures denied the charges. Chat Thai figures have also suggested local papers publishing the allegations be sued along with the Swedish newspaper.

Mr Somsak said that by Monday or Tuesday all the information needed would come from the Foreign Ministry and his office would issue a statement. "The Prime Minister has not made any additional orders and a statement will certainly be made," Mr Somsak said.

Meanwhile, House Foreign Affairs Committee member Lapsak Lapharotkit said his panel would call Mr Banhan, Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm Prachet Siridet to testify on the allegations.

Mr Lapsak, a Democrat MP, also said some party colleagues had suggested sending someone to Sweden to dig for more information but no agreement had been made on this.

He said the panel would protect the Government if it was innocent but if information pointed to its guilt, it would have to take responsibility.

"In the past no Thai prime minister has been subjected to such allegations," he said.

"The premier cannot say this is a matter for his party or that it is an individual matter. When the party leader is prime minister, it cannot be an individual matter," Mr Lapsak said.

Democrat MP Winai Senniam said Mr Westander telephoned party secretary-general Maj-Gen Sanan Khachonprasat, who had been assigned to dig up more information about the case because of his contacts in the military.

However, Maj-Gen Sanan was not available on Thursday when the researcher called and he talked to former foreign minister Surin Phitsuwan instead.

Mr Lapsak said Democrat leader Chuan Likphai had told his MPs that bribes were also offered for other proposed arms procurements.

"Mr Banhan will have to handle this problem himself because they are allegations against Chat Thai and the Prime Minister also has to be responsible to society," Mr Winai said.

Maj-Gen Sanan affirmed that Kockums' representative in Thailand had also offered a financial contribution to his party during the last general election but it was turned down.

Kockums has denied offering bribes to the Democrats or Chat Thai during the last general election.

Maj-Gen Sanan said the Chuan Likphai administration had laid down a defence policy based on military, diplomatic and economic factors. This might differ from the policy of Defence Minister Chawalit, who might focus on buying more arms and equipment.

"Buying more arms won't ensure security," he said. "Take our problem with Malaysia, we should use diplomatic means and not buy submarines to solve the problem," Maj-Gen Sanan said, referring to the fishing conflict in which a Malaysian gunboat fired on a Thai trawler, killing the skipper and his son.

Poppy Fields in North Increase by 20 Percent

BK0212095995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Dec 95 p 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The poppy-producing area in the North has expanded by 20 percent this year, an official of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board [ONCB] said yesterday.

Satellite pictures had shown the area had increased from 4,600 rai last year to 6,000-7,000 rai, said Bunphot Phiumdi, director of the ONCB's northern centre.

Last year, 1,500 tons of raw opium were produced by Burma, 500 tons by Laos and 12 tons by Thailand.

Vietnam

General Secretary Returns From PRC Visit

BK0212155595 Hanoi VNA in English 1551 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 2 — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi and his entourage returned here this afternoon from Shanghai, the third and last leg of their week-long official visit to China.

Earlier in the morning, the Vietnamese party leader visited Maqiao town, an example in carrying out China's industrialisation and rural socio-economic development.

Party General Secretary Do Muoi welcomed Maqiao's achievements as precious experience for Vietnam and expressed his wish that the population of Maqiao would strive for the target of annual per capita income of USD [U.S. dollars] 10,000 by the year 2000.

Before leaving Shanghai, the Vietnamese delegation called at the former residence of Soong Chingling, wife of the late president of China, Mr. Sun Yat-sen, and, as the Vietnamese party leader put it in the memorial book, a great patriot and a very close friend of the Vietnamese people.

He further wrote that Chingling's house witnessed the military solidarity and the love of the Chinese Communists and people towards President Ho Chi Minh during the hard time of the Vietnamese revolution.

Party General Secretary Do Muoi on his way home cabled a message of thanks to Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Communist Party and president of China. He expressed his satisfaction at the fine results of his official visit to China. He said he considered the talks and exchanges of views with the Chinese leaders very useful, positive, important and contributive to the further development of the friendship and long-term comprehensive cooperation between the two parties and states in the interests of both peoples, and for peace, stability and cooperation in Asia and the pacific as well as in the world as a whole.

Joint Communique With PRC

BK0212103695 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Dec 95

["Text" of a SRV-PRC joint communique issued in Beijing on 2 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. At the invitation of Jiang Zemin, CPC general secretary and PRC president, Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], paid an official friendship visit to the PRC from 26 November to 2 December 1995.

CPV General Secretary Do Muoi held talks with Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and PRC president. General Secretary Do Muoi also held separate talks with Li Peng, Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and PRC premier; Qiao Shi, Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the PRC National People's Congress Standing Committee; and Li Ruihuan, Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the PRC People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee.

During the talks and meetings, the two sides briefed each other on the political and economic situations in their countries; exchanged experiences in carrying out renovation, opening to the outside world, and guiding and managing their countries; and exchanged views in a broad and in-depth manner on regional and international issues of common concern. The talks and meetings were conducted amid an atmosphere of friendship, sincerity, and mutual respect and understanding. The distinguished Vietnamese guests also visited some industrial and agricultural projects as well as some historical sites and tourist attractions in Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the result of CPV General Secretary Do Muoi's visit. They held that the success of the visit will make an important contribution to consolidating and developing friendly and cooperative relations further for the mutual benefit of the two parties and countries and will exert a positive influence on regional peace, stability, and development.

2. The two sides were pleased at the positive progress and results of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties and countries since the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations in November 1991.

The two sides unanimously agreed to continue to abide by the principles set forth in the joint communiques issued on 10 November 1991, 4 December 1992, and 22 November 1994 to consolidate and develop the friendly cooperative relations between the two parties and countries further in conformity with the fundamental interests of the two parties, governments, and peoples to benefit regional peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

The two sides reiterated the principles, agreements, and understanding reached in high-level meetings since 1991. The two sides agreed that on that basis; in the spirit of taking the whole situation into account, mutual understanding and accommodation, being fair and reasonable, and friendly consultations; and based on international law and international practices, they will properly resolve the territorial and border issues between the two countries through peaceful negotiations. They will not let their differences affect the normal development of bilateral relations.

3. The two sides expressed happiness at the obvious progress in expanding trade ties and developing economic cooperation between the two countries. They held that there is great potential and prospects for the two countries to expand economic and trade cooperation. The two sides resolved to make more common efforts to develop the potential for cooperation and accelerate bilateral economic ties and trade for continuous development on a long-term and stable basis. The two sides reached an agreement in principle on the opening of railway transportation linking the two countries.

4. The two sides reaffirmed the common acknowledgements reached in the SRV-PRC communiques of 10 November 1991 and 22 November 1994. The Vietnamese side reiterated that Vietnam recognizes the PRC Government as the sole legal government of the whole of China and that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China. The Chinese side reiterated that it resolutely opposes the establishment of official relations in any form or any official contacts with Taiwan by countries that have diplomatic links with China. The Vietnamese side affirmed that it has only unofficial economic and trade contacts and will not establish official relations with Taiwan. The Chinese side understood and appreciated the Vietnamese side's stance.

5. The two sides reviewed the latest regional and international developments and noted with satisfaction that they share an extensive understanding on regional and international issues. The two sides held that safeguarding and consolidating peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthening bilateral and regional economic cooperation conforms with the common desires and fundamental interests of all peoples in this region. The two sides expressed their willingness to contribute their share to regional peace, stability, and development.

The Vietnamese side highly valued the achievements recorded by China in economic reform, opening to the outside world, and national preservation and reunification. The Chinese side highly valued the achievements recorded by Vietnam in renovation and opening and expanding its international relations.

6. CPV General Secretary Do Muoi expressed his sincere appreciation to the CPC, PRC Government, and Chinese people for their grand, warm, and friendly reception. General Secretary Do Muoi invited Jiang

Zemin, CPC general secretary and PRC president, to visit Vietnam again at a convenient time. General Secretary and President Jiang Zemin accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Beijing, 2 December 1995.

Editorial Hails Visit

BK0212092995 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 2 — Party General Secretary Do Muoi's official visit to China marks a new step of development in the relations between Vietnam and China, the national daily NHAN DAN says in its editorial today.

The results of the visit will make positive contributions to the consolidation and promotion of the friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the parties and nations of China and Vietnam, the editorial says adding that party General Secretary Do Muoi and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin have highly valued the important significance of the frequent high-level meetings by the two countries in recent years.

During these meetings, the two sides noted with satisfaction that the Sino-Vietnamese relationship has been growing positively and the two-way trade has developed fairly fast. A number of cooperation agreements on many fields have been signed by the two governments since 1991.

In regard to the existing border and territorial issues, the paper says, the two party leaders have reaffirmed the principles and understanding reached at high-level meetings since 1991 and insisted that these issues will be settled properly through peaceful negotiations. Issues left over by history should be addressed provided the two sides 'view things from commanding heights with farsightedness, weigh up the general situation while conducting friendly consultations in the spirit of mutual understanding and concession in line with the international laws'.

Party leader Do Muoi has reiterated that Vietnam considers the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole authentic government and Taiwan as an inseparable part of China, the paper says. The fine results of Mr. Do Muoi's week-long visit to China would make an active contribution to peace, stability and development in the region, the paper says in conclusion.

'Essay' Reviews Visit

BK0212101995 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Dec 95

[Essay by Huy Toan: "A New Step of Development in Sino-Vietnamese Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The past few days have seen numerous activities in Beijing reflecting the significance of Sino-Vietnamese relations. These activities took place during the official friendship visit to China by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi.

Immediately after the welcoming ceremony for the Vietnamese delegation, General Secretary Do Muoi held talks with his Chinese counterpart at the Great Hall of the People, a building complex reserved for high-level meetings. The atmosphere at the talks was very open and sincere. General Secretary Jiang Zemin began the talks by saying: I have been waiting for a visit by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi for quite a long time. I will welcome the comrade whenever he comes if I am in the country.

After the official talks were over, General Secretaries Do Muoi and Jiang Zemin chatted for more than an hour. During that time, the party leaders of the two countries exchanged views on many issues in a frank, cordial, and friendly fashion.

Afterward, Comrade Qiao Shi, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo and senior member of the People's Congress Standing Committee; Li Ruihuan, standing member of the CPC Central Committee Politiburo and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; and Comrade Li Peng, standing member of the CPC Central Committee Politiburo and prime minister of the Chinese Council of Ministers, also had audiences with General Secretary Do Muoi. At these audiences, the atmosphere became more cordial and friendly. The leaders of the two countries had the opportunity to express their concern for each another and for each step forward made by their respective countries, as such steps have a great impact on the Asia-Pacific region.

It is no coincidence that on the day he first set foot in China, General Secretary Do Muoi spent time visiting the Tiananmen Forbidden City. This palace is not only a historical site but is also the place where Chairman Mao Zedong officiated a ceremony 46 years ago to declare the existence of the PRC. As for Vietnam, the Tiananmen Forbidden City once witnessed many mass rallies and parades by tens of thousands of Chinese youths protesting the U.S. imperialist war of aggression against Vietnam. That is where their ardent love and great loyalty come from.

At the talks with General Secretary Jiang Zemin, after briefing him on the results obtained from the renovation process in Vietnam over the past few years and on the preparations for the Eighth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, General Secretary Do Muoi extended an invitation for a CPC delegation to participate. General Secretary Jiang Zemin's face brightened and he responded without hesitation: We will certainly attend. Also at the talks. Comrade Jiang Zemin said at least twice: From the depths of my heart, I am elated by Vietnam's many economic and diplomatic achievements in the past.

Although his China visit was very hectic, at the banquet hosted by General Secretary Jiang Zemin, General Secretary Do Muoi managed to meet veteran Chinese revolutionaries who had done great deeds in building the Sino-Vietnamese friendship. The meeting was very emotional. When shaking hands with Comrade Feng Yi, Comrade (Tian Chingying), and Comrade (Qiao Hiaoguang), the general secretary could not hold back his emotions when he said: Comrades, on behalf of the Vietnamese people, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you. Comrades, I wish you good health and hope that you will visit Vietnam. You are always welcome. Although more than 80 years old, Comrade Feng Yi is still very alert. He said: I am very glad to meet the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The fact that the comrade remembered us on this visit shows that Vietnam is very good. Please pass my best regards to the Vietnamese people. May the Vietnamese people be even happier and more prosperous, as envisioned by Uncle Ho.

Upon learning that General Secretary Do Muoi would visit the Vietnamese Embassy during his China visit, Mrs. (Shen Nieying), 82, the widow of Major General Nguyen Son, asked her son to show her to the Vietnamese Embassy to meet General Secretary Do Muoi. As a resident of Beijing who does not know Vietnamese, she said through a translator that her only wish in life is to visit her husband's native place in Vietnam. General Secretary presented a gift to her and invited her to visit Vietnam at her convenience.

It can be said that during those days in Beijing and during his tour of Tianjing and Shanghai, wherever General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage went they were warmly welcomed by leading party comrades, the local administration, and the people of China, who expressed their heartfelt sentiments to the delegation.

It can be said that this friendly official visit to China by General Secretary Do Muoi has opened a new step of development in the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Receives Ukrainian Minister

BK0212084295 Hanoi VNA in English
1652 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 1st — Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today Ukrainian Interior Minister Y.F. Kravchenko now on a visit to Vietnam.

Prime Minister Kiet highlighted the bilateral cooperation of the two ministries which he asked should exchange experience and possibilities for further cooperation to keep security of the two countries, he said that the cooperation would be promoted not only in the immediate future but also for a long-term basis and not only in security and public orders but also in other fields, and that Vietnam lays its trust on the long-term cooperation with Ukraine.

The prime minister also stressed that the Vietnamese party, government and people always bear in their mind the great and valuable assistance of the former Soviet Union including Ukraine.

"Vietnam can meet Ukraine's demands for consumer goods, and farm produce," Mr. Kiet confirmed adding that economic development must closely link with social stabilisation and order keeping, therefore the two ministries should discuss in detail cooperation issues.

"The Vietnamese Government is ready to create favourable conditions for the bilateral cooperation to develop," the Vietnamese Government leader confirmed.

The Ukrainian minister expressed his belief that the two ministries' cooperation would be further boosted, contributing to reinforcement and development of the friendship between the two countries.

Vietnamese Minister of the Interior Bui Thien Ngo was present at the reception.

President Le Duc Anh Concludes Philippine Visit

BK0212155995 Hanoi VNA in English
1551 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 2 — Vietnamese State President Le Duc Anh, his wife and entourage left Cebu city for home this afternoon, concluding their four-day official friendship visit to the Philippines.

During the visit, President Le Duc Anh held talks with President Fidel Ramos, at which the two presidents affirmed their countries' desire and efforts to further strengthen their cooperative relations in economy, trade, science, technology, and personnel training, to develop existing friendship between the two nations and to contribute to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region.

President Le Duc Anh received the presidents of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines. He toured the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Subic Exclusive Economic Zone, and a number of economic and cultural establishments in Manila and Cebu city. He also attended meetings of Vietnamese and Philippine business circles.

Financial Protocol Signed With France 30 Nov

BK0212083995 Hanoi VNA in English
1641 GMT 1 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 1 — Vietnamese Minister of Planning and Investment Do Quoc Sam and French Minister of Economy and Finance Jean Arthuis signed in Paris on Nov. 30 the 1995 financial protocol between the two governments.

Under the protocol, the French Government will grant Vietnam an official development assistance (ODA) sum worth 410 million francs, including non-refundable aid, soft loans, and credits. The sum will be given to Vietnam's priorities such as health care, education and training, safe water supply, post and telecommunications, energy, and transport and communications.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Minister J. Arthuis affirmed the French Government's goodwill and determination to further enhance the development cooperation between the two countries in the years to come.

International Donors Pledge $2.3 Billion in Loans

BK0412084095 Hanoi VNA in English
0616 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.4 — International donors have pledged new assistance totalling about USD 2.3 billion to Vietnam for the next 12 months.

The pledge was made at the Vietnam Consultative Group meeting held in Paris on Nov. 30-Dec.1 at the auspices of the World Bank [WB] and in consultation with the governmnet of Vietnam.

This was the largest amount of aid pledged since Vietnam rejoined the international financial community two years ago.

Donors pledged USD 1.8 billion in 1993 and 2 billion in 1994.

The 20 countries and 16 international organisations participating in the meeting exchanged opinion on the economic situation and the present situation of economic reform in Vietnam as well as on its five-year plan.

They congratulated Vietnam for its economic performance throughout the decade and especially during this past year. In 1995, economic growth was 9.5 percent, exports increased 30 percent, and foreign direct investrment surged to over 7 percent of GDP.

'Vietnam will continue to persue the process of Doi Moi (renovation), taking advantage of favourable conditions to realise rapidly our objectives of achieving greater prosperity for our people, a strong nation and a fair and civilised society,' said the Vietnamese head delegate at the meeting, Planning and Investment Minister Do Quoc Sam.

The Vietnamese delegation which also included Le Van Chau, deputy governor of the State Bank and Le Thi Bang Tam, deputy minister of finance presented a report to the meeting containing a framework for its next five-year development plan which will be presented in full at next year's 8th party congress.

Donors endorsed the broad development objectives and provided comments on several issues.

WB said in a release that the latest pledge was a reward for Vietnam's impressive economic progress and tangible gains in the quality of life.

The chairman of the consultative meeting, Callisto Madavo of the World Bank, cited Vietnam as an outstanding example of a country where economic reform had engendered a 'powerful, visible and positive effect' on people's everyday lives.

He said some USD 1.8 billion of the money would be project aid, USD 360 million would be programme aid and USD 130 million would be technical. Madavo also said there would be grants of USD 500 million.

He said this was a sign of donor nations' confidence that Vietnam was using its fund properly.

Japan pledged assistance totalling about 80,500 million yen-or roughly one-third of the total aid package- as bilateral-basis cooperation for Vietnam for this fiscal year.

The Japanese pledge includes an ODA loan of 70,000 million yen for seven infrastructure projects, a grant-in-aid of 7,800 million yen for projects in medicine, education environment, fishery, and about 2,700 million yen for technical cooperation.

Separately, France signed a 410 million Franc (USD 82 million) protocol in favour of Vietnam.

The protocol, signed in paris late on Thurday, covers health, infractructure, civil aviation, television and business and financial training projects, the French Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Official Asks 3-Year Grace on Tariff Reduction

BK0412044295 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 95 p 8

[Report by Atchara Ashayakachat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi — Vietnam has asked for a three- year period of grace before complying with the 1997 deadline for bringing its customs and tariff rules into line with other nations and GATT.

Customs Department director-general Phan Van Dinh said Vietnam is undergoing reform in this area and striving to become a member of the World Trade Organisation.

"If Vietnam wins support from other members for a period of grace, Vietnam will be well prepared to join the ASEAN customs agreement by the year 2000 by introducing trade law, joining WTO and training an army of law-abiding entrepreneurs," said' Mr Dinh in the weekly Thoi Bao Kinh Te (Vietnam Economic Times).

Four months after joining the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Vietnam hosted the third meeting of ASEAN customs directors general.

The meeting last week discussed preparations for the ASEAN summit which takes place in Bangkok this month.

Among issues discussed were:

— The ASEAN agreement on customs;

— Valuation of items subjected to customs tariff;
— The publication of the customs procedures of member countries;
— Unified customs declaration forms;
— Priorities in adjusting customs procedures among member countries;
— And the green corridor for goods under the tariff reduction scheme — also known as the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT).

The meeting agreed a guidebook containing customs procedures on all products traded in ASEAN should be published by the Secretariat by early next year, said an official.

Also by next year, instead of late this year, an ASEAN agreement on customs which has been debated three times will be complete.

The agreement will provide a legal framework on customs cooperation between member countries.

The official said the green lane system to expedite customs clearance for CEPT products was expected to be endorsed by AFTA Council this month.

Ideas such as tax-free zones and free-of-charge passage of certain goods among ASEAN countries were mentioned during the meeting, but were not given priority.

But the 1997 target set for harmonising tariff nomenclature and GATT valuation agreement was widely discussed.

"The ASEAN Secretariat has the intention of facilitating intra- ASEAN trade and realising an ASEAN Free Trade Area. Our ministers also have ambitions to do so," the official said.

"But for officials it is a mess and not only takes time but also more qualified and well-trained staff to understand and implement the new system," said the official who asked not to be identified.

Customs practice and procedures differ between countries. Some countries take the payment price as the baseline to charge customs tariff, but Vietnam relies on the price indicated in the receipts and recently based on the minimum price.

Mr Dinh said Vietnam is committed to applying the minimum price as customs tariffs.

Declaration forms for export items in other nations can be used as declaration forms of import items of the countries where the items are exported to.

Report Views Violations by Foreign Employers

BK0212143195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Dec 95

[From the "Today's Issues" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends: In today's program, we would like to discuss the need for foreign employers to observe Vietnamese laws properly.

Dear friends, since the beginning of the open door policy, our country has licensed over 1,300 foreign investment projects with a total capital of over $14 billion. Of this number, about 1,000 projects have actually started operations, employing about 90,000 workers. Foreign investment in Vietnam has contributed positively to the socioeconomic development of our country. Together with the positive effects, however, foreign cooperation and investment also raises a number of issues that require rectification and improvement. The most salient issue is the observance of Vietnamese law.

In addition to many good companies that strictly obey Vietnamese law, there are still some that overlook our laws.

We can refer to a few examples, one of which is (Sicovina), a South Korean company in Song Be Province that has not declared or paid its turnover tax since it started operations over two years ago, causing a loss to our budget of $20,885.

Inspection shows that most foreign companies or joint ventures with foreign partners in Quang Nam-Danang Province have violated our labor, trade union, and land laws. Most of the enterprises observe the state-determined minimum wage of $30 per month but fail to elaborate on the wage ladder, leading to a situation where everybody receives the same wage, even workers who have high expertise in their trade.

In Ho Chi Minh City, which has the most joint ventures with foreign partners, only 50 percent of the enterprises have actually implemented labor contracts with workers through trade unions. Many companies and enterprises have fired workers without just cause or employed new workers without clear criteria. There have been many cases where foreign employers mistreated or showed disrespect for the dignity of their Vietnamese workers, thus causing growing dissatisfaction within joint ventures with foreigners and in society.

Some joint ventures have failed to declare the precise value of their assets and turnover, either for the purpose of tax avoidance or to take advantage of their investment licenses to trade illegally in real estate.

Due to these irregularities, over 200 foreign-invested businesses have had their licenses revoked by the cooperation and investment management authorities.

Dear friends, to help foreign investment and cooperation with foreign partners improve and operate efficiently, and in line with Vietnamese law, we think the following tasks should be carried out in the immediate future:

— After a license is issued, the relevant authorities should supervise and inspect the implementation of the project regularly to correct any irregularities and handle any breaches. The current situation of leaving everything for the foreign partners to decide should be avoided.

— These enterprises should obey state regulations on the employment of workers and sign employment contracts with their Vietnamese workers.

— All enterprises with 100-percent foreign invested capital as well as joint ventures should have trade unions. This should be a prerequisite for foreign businesses to operate legally in Vietnam.

— Foreign employers should be handled resolutely when violations of Vietnamese law are found, including prosecution under the law, according to the level of seriousness of their violations.

— If Vietnamese responsible for management in the foreign invested enterprises are found to have assisted or supported their foreign employers in violating Vietnamese law for their personal benefit, they should be handled strictly according to the law, including prosecution.

— The last issue is that the relevant authorities should continue to review current regulations and legal stipulations to uncover all mistakes and loopholes and recommend the necessary adjustments in order to prevent abuses by foreign employers that could damage our economy and our people's morality.

Australia

French Flag Burned at Canberra Embassy

LD0212100095 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 2 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A French flag has been burned during an anti-nuclear protest outside the French Embassy in Canberra. The estimated 300 demonstrators were protesting over the continuing French nuclear testing program at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific. During the rally, a mock nuclear bomb was detonated, blanketing the embassy in red and orange flare smoke. One person was arretsed for allegedly throwing an orange at the embassy.

A spokesman for the Australian anti-bases campaign coalition says the protestors marched to parliament house after the demonstration outside the French Embassy.

Polish Delegation Seeks To Boost Investment

BK0312134795 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Poland's top financial decisionmakers are in Sydney this week to promote investment and economic ties with Australia. The delegation is headed by Poland's deputy prime minister, Professor Grzegorz Kolodko. The visit follows a fortnight after (Aleksander Cruchnovsky) was elected president to replace Solidarity Movement leader Lech Walesa.

A Polish delegate, (Henry Sacora), says the American Department of Trade [as heard] has listed Poland among the 10 most attractive markets and Australia should try to gain a share of it. (Mr. Sacora) says Australian business can benefit from tax incentives and concessions, full capital and dividend repatriation, and access to other Central European countries.

Fiji

E. Timor Rebel Leader Lobbies for Support

BK0412083895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT 4 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Suva, Dec 4 (AFP) — East Timorese resistance spokesman Jose Ramos-Horta arrived here Monday to lobby for the support of the Fijian government in the battle for independence from Indonesia.

He told reporters here that since Fiji plays a major role in United Nations peace-keeping operations and since self determination was a question the UN dealt with, Fiji should support the cause of independence for one of its near-neighbours.

"Fiji has remained silent on the East Timor issue," said the resistance leader who has been out of his country for the past 20 years. "I'm not critical of the current government or current policies.

"But if Fiji wants to be a leader in the region, it should be looking at its backyard."

He said Fiji, though a small country, had an important voice and he urged that it change its stance.

During a two-day visit, he will meet foreign affairs officials here to try to change Fiji's stand on the East Timor independence issue.

Except for Vanuatu, every other South Pacific country has so far voted against United Nations resolutions opposing Indonesia's annexation of East Timor following its 1975 invasion.

Vanuatu

Vohor Suspends Prime Minister From Coalition

BK0312090095 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Vanuatu's ruling Union of Moderate Party [UMP], Serge Vohor, says he has suspended Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman from the coalition. This follows allegations that the prime minister had acted on behalf of the UMP outside the party line.

Mr. Vohor said a decision by Mr. Carlot Korman to form a negotiating committee to discuss a new coalition arrangement with other parties was against the UMP constitution, because only its National Executive had a mandate to make such appointments. The prime minister announced yesterday that he was forming the committee, which would include himself.

Sources close to Mr. Carlot Korman claimed that Mr. Vohor did not have the power to suspend the party member as this could only done by the UMP's National Executive. However, Mr. Vohor said he had acted on a mandate given to him at a party congress last October. Both men have requested senior members of the UMP to attend an emergency party congress in Port Vila to resolve their differences and work together for a coalition with other parties.

Following a closely fought election on Thursday [30 November], none of the three main groups was thought likely to obtain enough votes to form a government.

Prime Minister Comments on Coalition Conflict

*BK0312161995 Hong Kong AFP in English
1451 GMT 3 Dec 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Port Vila, Dec 3 (AFP) — Vanuatu President Serge Vohor [title as received] said Sunday Prime Minister Maxime Carlot had been suspended from the Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) as the two men traded accusations.

In a message broadcast on national radio, Vohor said Carlot was suspended from the UMP and alleged he had paid voters to win back his seat in the capital's constituency and had formed a negotiating team alone without approval of the party.

"He's a dangerous man, because he takes positions in his own interest and he creates divisions within UMP," Vohor claimed on national radio.

Carlot later told a press conference the same day he did not pay voters.

He said Vohor's decision to expel him was a way of getting rid of him ahead of a party congress on Monday which will decide the party's candidate as the next prime minister in the wake of general elections on Thursday.

"He's lobbying to be the next prime minister. But only the party's congress can nominate UMP's next prime minister", Carlot said.

He said it seemed Vohor only wanted to negotiate with former prime minister Walter Lini's National United Party (NUP) to strike an alliance and form a coalition government.

"It looks as though Mr Vohor has already joined NUP. They must have asked him to suspend me", he said.

The official results from the elections will not be announced until later this week, but unofficial tallies show the UMP winning between 20 and 22 seats in the 50-seat parliament, the opposition coalition Unity Front (UF) about the same and the NUP some eight seats.

Parliament as a whole must chose a prime minister not later than 14 days after the election from the candidates put forward.

Carlot promotes the idea of a coalition with Donald Kalpokas's Vanuaaku Pati (VP), which, as the main component of the UF gained some 13 seats according to the unofficial results.

"But if he (Vohor) wants to exclude me, I'll take steps that will cost him a lot. It will be war", Carlot said.

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